

# HITCHIN U3A

## Minutes of 36<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Held in person and on Zoom on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2.00pm in Christchurch**

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed over 70 members and 16 online.

- 1. Apologies for absence.** Apologies were received from Robert Lynn, David Everett, Sue Softly and Maggie Killingbeck
- 2. Minutes.** The minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022 were accepted as a true record.  
**Approved by those present.**
- 3. Matters Arising.** No matters were raised.
- 4. and 5. Election of 1 Officer; Business Secretary, and 3 Committee members**

Anne Rapley was standing for election in the Officer's role of Business Secretary from 2023 to 2026. She was nominated by Heidi Ebrahim and seconded by June Parker.

Maggie Killingbeck was standing for re-election as a Committee member from 2023 to 2026. She was nominated by Margaret Hughes and seconded by Ann Carpenter.

Maggie Bedingfield was standing for election as a Committee member from 2023 to 2026.

She was nominated by June Parker and seconded by Heidi Ebrahim.

June Young was standing for election as a Committee member from 2023 to 2026.

She was nominated by Maggie Bedingfield and seconded by Anne Rapley

The membership was asked to approve the election of 1 Officer and 3 Committee Members.

**The proposal was accepted unanimously by a show of hands.**

### **6 Treasurer's Report: Margaret Hughes, read by Heidi Ebrahim**

You should have had an email copy or one in the post of the full and detailed accounts. Ask me if you need a paper copy as I do not intend to go through it line by line.

In summary, the balance sheet looks very healthy indeed and shows that in round figures we had over £12,000 in the bank accounts at the end of 2022, about the same reserves as last year. That included £3,000 subscriptions paid in advance.

This year we were given an exceptional donation in memory of Rosemary Kay which was used to plant a tree and we had a memorial lecture meeting followed by a cream tea.

As part of the 40<sup>th</sup> u3a anniversary celebrations we ran two self-financing events, a curry and quiz and an afternoon tea, which made a small profit.

**Included in the accounts but held by the individual groups are the group finances which tended to be minimal. The big change compared to the previous year is down to the new Theatre Group's income and payments which are obviously more substantial.**

If you want a more detailed explanation of the accounts, come and see me in the hall later.

Are there any questions for now? There were no questions

Acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Gill Fleetwood and seconded by Maggie Bedingfield.

**The report was accepted by the members present and online by a show of hands.**

Finally, many thanks to Jeet Bhatiani for examining and agreeing the accounts. He has agreed to examine them next year. He will have no say in how the money is spent but will help me with the paperwork and checking. Does the membership agree with this appointment?

Proposer Diana Lowe, seconder Kathleen Airey

**All members were in favour by a show of hands**

## **7 Membership Secretary's Report: Diana Lowe**

We currently have 278 full members and 4 associate members. However, 42 have still to renew but these payments are slowly coming through.

During the year we have been pleased to welcome 96 new members, plus 2 today.

The majority heard about us by word of mouth or from our website. Members mostly come from the Hitchin area but we have members from further afield such as Stevenage, St Neots, Luton, Knebworth, Wheathamstead and Barton le Clay.

Our membership statistics still show that 77% are female with only 23% being male. 93% are on email.

We have also welcomed 59 visitors during the year.

My thanks to the volunteers who man the reception desk and to Margaret Hughes who has supported me over the year.

## **8. Chairman's Report: Heidi Ebrahim**

My first year as your Chairman has passed in the blink of an eye. At least that is how it appears to me. It has also been the first full year of face-to-face meetings since lockdown and the year of the national u3a's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. In addition to our normal meetings programme we therefore organised a number of celebratory events which were so successful that we are hoping to repeat them this year, such as the curry & quiz lunch, the 12 mile walk and the market stall/Groupfest.

Whilst other social clubs and organisations are struggling to attract new members, we have been particularly encouraged and pleased to see a steady stream of newcomers joining us over the past 12 months. So many in fact that we are now nearing full capacity at the speaker meetings at Christ Church. Social afternoons have also been so very popular that we had to implement a booking system again to ensure attendance numbers did not exceed the permitted limit. This has led us to explore alternative venues with Hitchin Town Hall coming up as the only real alternative. Plans for a number of events at that venue are in the pipeline.

Group Leaders/Coordinators are the backbone of Hitchin u3a, so a big thank you to all of you who keep so many of us learning, active and entertained. However, the increased membership has resulted in many groups now full and unable to take new members. I therefore make a plea for anybody willing to share his or her hobby or interest with a group of like-minded people to come forward. Hitchin u3a needs you!

As you will have seen from today's agenda, our committee is changing as people have come to the end of their term of office. So very many thanks to Marian Pullinger, Martin Alexander, Brian Marsden and Carol Ingham for all their work and support over many years.

Anne Rapley has agreed to become our Business Secretary, Maggie Killingbeck is standing for re-election and Maggie Bedingfield and June Young are stepping up from being Friends of the Committee to proper committee membership. I am also proposing to co-opt Barbara Allison and Alisa Elder-Vass for a year to assist the Secretary and the Membership Secretary. We are still desperately looking for somebody to take on the website editor role.

And finally, my personal heartfelt thank you to the committee and the army of volunteers behind and in front of the scenes for making my life as Chairman so easy and all your events so enjoyable. Together we will do our very best for you to continue to LIVE, LAUGH AND LEARN.

**9. Any Other Business** No items were received.

In closing, Heidi introduced the members to our new Business Secretary, Anne Rapley, new Committee members Maggie Bedingfield and June Young, and new Co-opted members Barbara Allison and Alisa Elder-Vass.

The meeting closed at 2.25pm

**The Committee for 2023/2024 are:**

**Officers :**

Chairman	Heidi Ebrahim
Vice Chair	Carol Mascarenhas
Treasurer	Margaret Hughes
Business Secretary	Anne Rapley

**Committee Members :**

Membership Secretary	Diana Lowe
Groups Secretary	Mary Ireland
Other members	Maggie Bedingfield June Young Maggie Killingbeck June Parker

**Co-opted Members :** Barbara Allison  
Alisa Elder-Vass

**Friends of the Committee:** Tony Russell  
Steve Pullinger