

Kings Norton and District u3a

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday 3rd May 2022

1. Welcome

Linda Curry (Chair) welcomed all 88 members present.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Beryl Blood, Sue Burton, Pamela Clarke, Liz Dancey, Tone & Lyndsay Earwaker, Roy Oates and Claire Pitt.

3. Minutes of the AGM of 6th July 2021

Minutes of the AGM July 2021 were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

4. Review of 2021/22

Linda explained changes to the networking arrangements that Kings Norton u3a was involved in. In July 2021, when she became Chair, it had belonged to the Solihull Cluster network, but it appeared to have little in common with others in the network. Kings Norton u3a had now formed the network of South Birmingham with Mosley/Kings Heath and Harborne/Edgbaston. The aim is to help each other through what continues to be a difficult time. There is not a formal structure or constitution, nor a website. The arrangement may become formalised in time.

Kings Norton u3a stopped subscribing to Mirthy for monthly talks during the summer 2021 and general meetings were resumed in September 2021.

There was no speaker for that first meeting, which was organised as a social and opportunity for members to pick up information about Interest Groups, as more returned to meeting up. The social was attended by over 70 members, with a real “buzz” in the hall.

Talks at meetings since have attracted 70-80 attendees and been well received.

Information about the programme of speakers for the rest of the year were available on flyers at the registration desk or on the website.

Linda stated that Interest Groups were going from strength to strength. Although 3 or 4 groups had closed down since the start of the pandemic; more groups had been set up in recent months. She thanked Pauline George and Beryl Blood for their work in co-ordinating and supporting groups. Pauline noted that she was trialling a new Sunday Lunch Group.

5. Review of finances

Jenny Snashall (Treasurer) had circulated a report of the finances, including statement of accounts, to all members prior to the AGM.

Due to generally increasing costs, including increased venue hire costs, it had been necessary to increase membership fees to £18 pa.

There were no questions about the financial information.

6. Receive and approve independently approved accounts

The statement of accounts, examined by an independent external examiner, were received and approved by a show of hands.

7. Election of officers

Nominations had only been received for each of the 4 posts for those who were the existing officers. It was therefore not necessary to hold a ballot.

(Chair: Linda Curry; Vice Chair: Vicki Hone; Business Secretary: Lorna Brown; Treasurer: Jenny Snashall)

8. Election of non-officer members of the committee

Nominations had been received for Beryl Blood, Pauline George, Helen Kempster and Margaret Lusher. As the constitution provides for up to 8 non-officer members of the committee, it was not necessary to hold a ballot.

Linda invited other u3a members to consider joining the committee.

9. Thanks to the retiring offices

Linda thanked Paul Smith for his considerable contribution to Kings Norton u3a. He was a founder member of Kings Norton u3a and had served as Business Secretary for five years. He had been a stalwart on committee, always willing to lend a hand and he will be missed.

However, he will continue to lead the Musical Appreciation Interest Group.

Linda also thanked other members of the committee, not retiring, for their contribution. She also thanked volunteers Pauline Amor (minute taker) and Stella Woods and the team who organised the refreshments each general meeting, along with Anne Jones who dealt with Beacon

10. Motions proposed

None.

11. Changes to the Constitution

Lorna Brown (Business Secretary) introduced proposed changes to the existing Kings Norton u3a Constitution, which is based on the national constitution. The Constitution had generally served well but issues arising during Covid had exposed some weaknesses. In particular, it did not provide for video conferencing and online AGMs or online voting, and the current quorum for AGMs was 20% was regarded as too large.

She outlined the proposed changes, which had been circulated prior to the AGM:

(i) Current wording

There shall be a quorum when at least 20% of the number of members of The U3A, are present at any General Meeting.

Proposal: to reduce the percentage to 10%.

There were no objections to the proposal

(ii) Proposed additional wording to the constitution

In the unlikely event that a live AGM is not possible, an online meeting, by video conferencing, will be provided. Details of how members are able to attend will be included with the agenda. Facilities for online voting, during the AGM, will be provided.

Linda noted that it was recognised that the use of online facilities presented a challenge to some members. Unfortunately, the current venue cannot support the use of hybrid meetings (using a mix of online/live meetings), used by some u3a groups.

The proposal was carried by a show of hands.

There was a request for some additional help for using the internet, in general, to be arranged for members.

12. Any other business

No other business

13. Date of next meeting

Date of the next Annual General Meeting given as Tuesday 2nd May 2023