

LEDBURY & District U3A – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting deemed to be held on Thursday February 18 2021

On 9 September 2020 the Committee resolved that the AGM of Ledbury & District U3A would be held by means of Postal Votes and will be deemed to have been held on Thursday February 18 2021

All the current members (430) were informed of the meeting and 129 responded by returning approval/voting forms so it was deemed that 129 members were present at the meeting

1. Minutes of the 2019 AGM: Copies of the Minutes were included with the January Newsletter. 123 members signified approval of the Minutes

2. Chairman' Report for the year 2019-2020 was printed in the January Newsletter

The Chairman recalled that the year had started normally with enjoyment of all Group activities. When Lockdown started in March the venues we use were shut and Group meetings ceased. Many of the 45 different interest groups and their members kept in touch virtually with some non-technical households learning to use basic video conferencing to connect other Group members. The Committee is grateful to all the Group Leaders and administrators who made efforts to keep communications running. A new secure member database was implemented, and we published articles in local magazines to maintain our profile. Whilst the number of members renewing dropped a little, with fewer meeting opportunities, there was a late surge in renewals - possibly influenced by the hopeful signs of "normal services resuming" the middle of 2021, with the advent of available vaccines The Chairman stated that the online world is no replacement for face to face contact, but there is no doubt that it has provided a lifeline for many.

3. Financial Statement: The Treasurer's Report was printed in the January Newsletter

Any member who wished to have a copy of the financial statement, was able to ask the Treasurer for a copy.

The Treasurer confirmed that the accounts for the year 2019/20 have been independently checked and verified. Covid 19 and the lockdown measures had a considerable impact upon our finances during the year. In broad terms there was a 30% decrease in both income and expenditure. Despite this our U3A ended the year in a relatively stable financial position. Membership fees received for the year totalled £4,901 (2018/19 £4,711.50). Subscriptions for Third Age Matters totalled £171.60 (2018/19 £156.20). The cost of Newsletter printing increased from £1,293 to £1,365. Group income of £3,333.35 and expenditure of £2,356.28 were considerably reduced from last year, reflecting the cessation of activity and visits. Expenditure on administration reduced from last year to £1,792.23.

Work was carried out to move our manually recorded membership records on to Beacon, the computer database used by the majority of U3As. There is an annual support cost of £1 per member to pay from October 2020. Although we ended the 2019/20 year in a stable position, the 2020/21 year is likely to be financially challenging. There may need to be a draw upon the Reserve Account. To these ongoing costs will be added the cost of maintaining the Beacon system. In the 2020 annual committee review of fees, it was agreed that an increase of £1 per person membership fee be proposed at this AGM to take effect from June 2021

Finally thanks were recorded to the Independent Examiner for carrying out the independent examination of the accounts for the year. 124 members signified acceptance of the Accounts.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner: The Independent Examiner was re-appointed

5. Election of Committee:

The following members were elected to serve on the Ledbury & District U3A Committee for 2020-2021

Chairman: Roz Randle

Treasurer: Fred Lumb

Business Secretary: Jennifer Harrison

Committee Members: Sally Holliday, Jill Shechter, Andy Castro, Michael Townsend.

6. Resolution:

The annual membership fee for Ledbury & District U3A will increase with effect from June 2021 to the following amounts: Single £10 Double £17 Link Single £6.50 Link Double £10. For the Resolution 93 Against the Resolution 26 Abstentions 5. Resolution carried.