

## U3A SEL

### Second Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting 12 May 2023

Held at Horn Park (Old Colfeans) Eltham Road, London SE12

Present: Tim Crossley (Co-Chair and Treasurer); Chris Melville (Co-Chair); Richard Beck, Brenda Lobo; Kieran Patel; Gina Raggett; Mark Serebriakoff; Angie Weir

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Hazel Beale, Martha Lucia Fox and around 13 others sent their apologies. The meeting was attended by around 50 members.
- 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13 May 2022:** CM said that Minutes were available online and that approx. 32 copies had been sent through the post.
- 3. Matters arising from the Minutes.** There being no matters arising, the Minutes were unanimously approved via a show of hands.
- 4. Chairs' Reports: (CM/TC):** CM said the impact of Covid had been considerable but things were almost back to normal with more members (588) at the end of the year than at the start (498). There were 65 groups in total including new Yoga. Beginners' Spanish, Creative Writing and Board Games meetings among others.  
TC said that membership was still not up to peak figures and that the aim was to reach 700 or so members. Nationally, U3ASEL was in the mid-range. More leaders were needed for walks and other group activities, particularly now that Hazel Beale was reducing her input. U3ASEL would shortly be manning a stall at a local fair to increase awareness of its activities and had begun placing publicity posters at doctors' surgeries and elsewhere. In response to complaints that too many events were Eltham-centric, new venues were now being used in Blackheath and Lewisham.  
CM explained how communication with members is maintained. MLF and MS are responsible for compiling the weekly email lists which go out on Mondays and are viewed by around 80% of addressees. A full prospectus was issued 3 times in 2022, but this will reduce to 2 issues in 2023. She said the group's Facebook pages might help increase awareness of the group's activities but that help was needed to keep the site up-to-date.  
BL said she had taken over as groups coordinator and that AW and GR had been co-opted onto the Committee. Hazel Beale was stepping down as Secretary but would continue giving talks and leading walks. A vote of thanks was offered for HB's 5 years of excellent work on behalf of U3ASEL. TC added that after 12 months in post, he wished to reiterate his thanks to his predecessor Susan Mead for her work during her time as Chair.  
CM said there were 4 spaces on the Committee and that volunteers would be very welcome. She stressed that there were various easy tasks which newcomers might be able to take on to begin with, and there would always be help from existing Committee members. Finally, she paid tribute to the convenors who work all year round to keep the various groups going.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** TC informed that U3ASEL had moved banks from HSBC to the Co-op. HSBC had closed many branches, introduced new charges and discouraged payments by cheque whereas the Co-op was increasingly the bank of choice for voluntary groups. The protocols relating to the group's banking procedures had been rewritten and would be reviewed every year. The accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023 had been examined by Simon Tovey. It was proposed (TC) and seconded (Roger Mead) that ST be reappointed as Examiner for the following year.

TC explained that the group had made a deliberate loss so as to comply with Charity Commission rules that organisations should not hold reserves over certain limits. The annual subscription would therefore remain at its existing level for the coming year. RM asked if the new financial policy would be made available to members. TC agreed to put it online. RM further asked if the Committee included a financial sub-group, but TC said this had not been considered necessary. The Accounts were approved unanimously. Proposer Susan Mead; Seconder Douglas Guest.

**Action: New financial policy to be published online.**

6. **Resolution to amend the constitution:** TC proposed and Anne Barlow seconded the motion that the constitution be amended in line with wording on the Agenda. This was unanimously agreed.
7. **Election of Committee members:** CM explained that AW and GR had been co-opted to the Committee in January 2023 but now needed to be formally elected by the membership. For GR, Val Williams proposed and CM seconded; for AW Valerie Fairbrass proposed and BL seconded. Both were unanimously elected for a term of 3 years, with the option of a further 3 years thereafter. No other volunteers put themselves forward.
8. **Any Other Business:** 1) A question was asked about problems of communication with members with no internet access. TC said that only 32 members out of a total of 588 fell into this category and that it would be too expensive to send weekly updates through the post. He would take the issue back to the Committee and see what options – including a “buddy” system – might be available. 2) A new member said she had been unable to join several groups as they were all full up. BL explained that many groups met in private houses where there was no room for new members. She made a plea for new leaders to set up further groups for popular activities including lunch/restaurant/theatre/languages and others which were over-subscribed. 3) A member thanked the Committee for the new prospectus, which she found very easy to read. 4) CM said she has taken over organisation of the Friday talks and had booked speakers until the end of the current year. These would continue to take place on the second Friday of every second month. She welcomed ideas for further talks.

**Action: Issues relating to members with no internet access to be discussed in Committee.**

There being no further business the meeting finished at 11.48am.