**MINUTES OF THE NEWBURY u3a AGM**

**ST.NICHOLAS’ CHURCH**

**12th FEBRUARY 2024**

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| ***1.Welcome and Apologies:***  161 members were welcomed to the meeting and the chairman had received 28 proxy votes. The meeting was therefore quorate.  Derek Child (Hon Secretary) recorded apologies for absence received from 18 members. |
| ***2.Minutes of meeting* *held on 13th February 2023***  It was proposed by Bob Hook seconded by Jayne Hipkiss that the minutes be adopted as a true record and the motion was carried unanimously.  The Chairman will sign the Minutes in due course. |
| ***3.Chairman’s Report:***  Rosemarie Franklin (Chairman) reported to the meeting as shown on the attached sheet |
| ***4.Treasurer’s Report:***    Stewart Wright (Treasurer) referred the meeting to the Accounts and Balance Sheet that had been published on the website. He highlighted a small surplus of £2000 and stressed that the Balance sheet was strong with adequate reserves.  Jane Loveless raised the question of the amount in reserve citing the National u3a guidance that reserves should cover 6 months of expenses and ours exceeded that provision. Stewart responded that as a charity we are obliged to cover against non- specific as well as foreseeable contingencies. Higher reserves can, for example, result from an increase in members.  Stewart confirmed that the EC were keeping matters under review and had introduced the raffle as a method of distributing some funds to members by way of random selection. He stated that the membership fee had remained at £20 and inflation, the increasing cost of Halls and payments to groups in particular need, had to be provided for.  ***5. Resolution to adopt the Accounts***  The motion to adopt the Accounts was proposed by Anne Bennett seconded by Sophie Parker-Hodds and overwhelmingly approved by a show of hands.  ***6.Election of new Committee Members:***  Derek announced that 4 nominations for the Executive Committee had been received in respect of:-   * Jayne Hipkiss as Chairman * Jill Bosley as Vice Chairman * Derek Child as Hon Secretary * Lorraine Strudley as a member of the EC   As there were more vacancies than nominees clause 7(9) of the Constitution applied and they were declared to be elected without the requirement of a ballot |
| ***7.Appointment of Examiner of Accounts:***  Jayne Hipkiss paid tribute to Roger Donato for all his work over the years in ensuring that Newbury u3a was compliant. He has worked with Brian Soulby in examining the 2023 accounts and Brian has indicated his willingness to assume the role of Examiner of the 2024 Accounts. It was proposed by Angela Spellman and seconded by Jane Read that his appointment should be confirmed by the Executive Committee. This was carried unanimously. |
| ***8.Any other business***   * Anne Bennett said that the raffle would only benefit 3% of the membership and was the wrong approach. She suggested a reduction in the membership fee. * Stewart Wright said that the matter had been debated by the EC at length and the surplus had built up over many years from the Travel and Theatre Groups together with contributions from previous members. He acknowledged that the EC needed to remain mindful of the need to be accountable to members. * Jayne Hipkiss pledged that the EC would provide a better description of their plans and keep members informed.   During the course of the meeting Derek Child paid tribute to the great contribution made by Rosemarie Franklin during her 4 years as Chairman and highlighted her key attributes as being “tireless, determined and dedicated” with the current success of Newbury u3a as her “legacy”. Rosemarie was presented with a bouquet and a gift of appreciation which was greeted by a round of applause.  Bob Hook gave a short speech in appreciation of the work of the EC over the last year and this was also applauded by the meeting. |