

## ROSS-ON-WYE & DISTRICT u3a

### ZOOM ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 23rd AUGUST 2021

Present: Jim Christie, Alan Pitts, Marilyn Reynolds, Terri-Anne Matthews, Steve Elliot, Michael Travers, Gill James, Margaret Hay, Marianne Wright, Mike Miles, Liz Miles, Gillian Talbot, Brian Talbot, Konrad Holleis, Elizabeth Holleis, David Thompson, Sue Murphy, Jacqui Woodhouse, Janet Cooper, David Stone, Sheila Shepherd, Keith Richards.

#### MINUTES

This meeting was reconvened after the previous one on 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021 failed to produce a quorum. The chairman, Jim Christie, began by explaining that in these exceptional circumstances of the Covid-19 Pandemic the Charity Commission has given permission for AGM's to be conducted on-line. He explained how voting would take place using on-line surveys and produced an example for attendees to practise with. An explanation of the Reaction Button was also given so that all attendees could participate fully with each agenda item.

The names of proposers and seconders have been circulated to members more than once and were most recently detailed on the Agenda dated 12<sup>th</sup> July and resent by email on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

1. Apologies for absence

David Mole, Peggy Mole, Rosemary Oddy, Anne Summers, Tina Raddenbury, Lesley Scott.

2. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were circulated to all members on 28<sup>th</sup> June with no comments made prior to this meeting. The Chair asked for questions and when none were forthcoming a vote to accept was undertaken with 80% voting Yes and 20% abstaining.

3. The Annual Report was circulated to all members on 5<sup>th</sup> July and again no comments were made prior to this meeting with nothing to be added by attendees today. The voting for approval was 80% yes and 20% abstain.

4. The Financial Report was circulated to all members on 28<sup>th</sup> June again with no responses prior to this meeting or today. The voting for approval was 100% yes.

5. A Clause to amend our constitution to allow for digital meetings in the future was circulated to all members on 28<sup>th</sup> June. The wording was provided by The Third Age Trust and no comments were made prior to today's meeting. David Thompson asked whether the clause allowed for clandestine meetings to be held where a committee might steamroller items without the full collaboration of members. The Chair explained that the wording makes clear that this option is intended for exceptional circumstances only; should not be the norm and cannot be invoked without knowledge of all members. It was approved with a yes vote of 100%.

6. The Chair thanked Roy Milnes for agreeing to be the Examiner for Accounts for 2022 and his approval voting was 100%.
  
7. The meeting then moved to the election of Committee members. All members were informed of the committee members and their roles in the communication on 5<sup>th</sup> July. Since then, Jane Ryland has agreed to stand as Outings Secretary, proposed by Gill James and seconded by Jim Christie. The electronic voting system no longer worked and voting proceeded via the traditional raised hand method.
  - a. Jim Christie was approved as Chair by 75% of today's attendees.
  - b. Steve Elliot was approved as Vice-Chair by 75% of today's attendees.
  - c. Marilyn Reynolds was approved as Cotswold Link Representative by 100% of today's attendees.
  - d. Jane Ryland was approved as Outings Secretary by 85% of today's attendees.
  - e. The current officers, Terri-Anne Matthews (Secretary), Alan Pitts (Treasurer), Steve Elliot (Membership Secretary), Michael Travers (Groups Secretary) and David Mole (Speakers Secretary) were approved by 95% of today's attendees.

The Chair offered his thanks to the following members for their specialist knowledge and ongoing committee support:-

- Margaret Hay for the excellent Newsletters.
- Rosemary Oddy for contacting bereaved or sick members.
- Marianne Wright for assistance with publicity.
- Marilyn Reynolds for liaising with the Cotswold Link network and her work with Fledgling Groups.
- Peggy Mole for liaising with Speakers.

8. The Chair provided members with the following statement on 22nd August by email. The Chair asked those present if they had any questions about the statement but there were none.

### Covid-19 Update

*The AGM is an appropriate vehicle to update the membership on the guidance on what u3as may do provided by the Trust. What follows includes paraphrased advice from the national website, and for those who would like to review the source document, the Secretary will include the link to the webpage in the AGM minutes.*

*The starting point is to follow the advice given by the Government. Additionally, we must ensure that we undertake a risk assessment before commencing any u3a group activity. A committee member has spoken with the manager of the Larruperz Centre about controls and measures to minimise the risk of transmission of coronavirus. Although the owners/operators of the Larruperz Centre are not allowed to restrict access to un-vaccinated people, they are permitted to put in place reasonable safety precautions. Visitors must wear masks when entering the building and moving around in corridors, but once in the main hall, it is up to individuals to decide if they want to remove face coverings.*

*Individual u3as can impose additional requirements, such as the need for all participants attending a meeting to either provide proof of a negative COVID test or having received both*

*vaccinations. Your Committee has discussed this option at length and decided not to take this additional step. We believe our role is to advise members about the safety protocol set by a venue and then let people determine whether they wish to participate in an activity. We will review our decision periodically in the light of any future Government and Trust advice, and we will ensure that members are made aware of any changes.*

*With our Open Afternoon event on 27th September just five weeks away, some of our members will be nervous about attending a potentially large gathering in the Larruperz Centre. Recognising this, we are considering listing all the activity groups that will be on show and sending an advance e-mail to members so that those still unsure about large gatherings can sign up digitally in advance.*

9. A.O.B

Gillian Talbot asked when members might expect a general meeting with speaker. The Chair hopes that this will happen in October although the speaker has still to be finally confirmed. He explained further that some speakers are still only offering their talks remotely by Zoom.

The Chair concluded with his thanks to all attendees and expressed the hope for future face to face meetings beginning with the Meet and Greet event on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September.

The meeting was closed at 3.27pm