Minutes of the Somerton u3a Special General Meeting Held at the Edgar Hall and on Zoom

22nd July 2022

Present: Steve Davis Annette Sparks , Liz Short (Treasurer), Marilyn Muffett, Laurence Reeves, Amanda Hooper, Mike Davis, David Robins, Doug Skillicorn, Fran Cook and 75 members

**Apologies:** Jane Redgrove.

Liz, as the only standing officer of the committee, opened the meeting with a welcome to all members.

Liz explained that we needed to have a quorate of 10% of all members to be able to make changes to the Constitution and that actually we had twice that number present. Liz then stated that she had sought agreement from National u3a for the proposed change to the Constitution. Liz then proceeded to explain that there would be 2 votes and there would need to be a show of hands, with a simple majority, to gain approval to changes proposed.

**Item 1** Liz sought approval to amend Part 2 16.(7) of the Constitution which states that members of the committee may only serve in post for up to 9 years, by extending the local Constitution rule to12 years. This was approved without exception by a show of hands.

**Item 2** New people have come forward to serve on the committee as follows:

* Steve Davis as Chairman
* Jane Redgrove as Vice-Chairman
* Annette Sparks as Secretary
* Fran Cook as Committee Member.
* Unfortunately Jean Ward came forward but was unable to proceed for personal reasons.

Nomination forms have been received for all these posts.

Members were asked to approve the nominations by a show of hands, and did so without exception.

**Welcome from** Steve Davis Chairman

It was unexpected to have the opportunity to take on the role of Chairman again. Steve explained that he has been a member of the Su3a for 18 years and has served as Vice-Chairman and Chairman, each for three years, during that time.

AGMs are proving to be a problem for all organisations as members may not be willing or able to step into committee roles, but Steve is looking forward to leading our committee in the future.

Thanks were given to the committee for continuing through what has been a very difficult time during the pandemic.

We have lost members over time but fortunately been able to keep Su3a going.

During the pandemic Judi, as Chairman, continued in her role, which meant a change in the constitution for her to serve an extra year. Steve expressed thanks to Judi for everything that she had done phoning everyone and keeping in touch with people.

Thanks were also given to the membership for standing by.

Steve welcomed Jane as the Vice-Chairman.

Thanks were given to Annette for stepping forward as Secretary and Fran for joining the committee. The committee all feel confident about moving forward.

The committee suggested that Steve dressed in his role as Town Crier for the meeting. This is a role where the Town Crier generally announces bad news, but in this case Steve was able to deliver the good news that we are keeping the Su3a subscription at the same rate as last year i.e. £18.

Next year however the u3a capitation rate will be going up.

Steve explained that there has been a rumour going around that we would have to move out of the Edgar Hall for our meetings, but fortunately that has been resolved and we can continue our meetings in the Hall.

Maggie Beeson has been in charge of refreshments for a very long time, and is now looking forward to a well deserved rest. Her job is to oversee each of the groups in turn to provide the teas and coffees each month. The committee would like to ask for two or three people to step forward and take on this role. Maggie will give full training in what is required. The u3a works as a cooperative and everyone needs to play their part, so if you are able to help please see Steve.

**Events**

Amanda is busy planning some events and the dates will be in the Newsletter and also on the website.

* There’s going to be an **Open Day** on the 9th of September which will promote Somerton u3a. The aim is to attract new members with new skills. The more members we have the less it costs for each of us, so please encourage new people to attend.
* There’s going to be a **Barn Dance** at the beginning of October
* A **Tea Party** will be held at the end of October to celebrate 25 years of Su3a.
* The **Christmas Lunch** is being held at Long Sutton Golf Club, which is a change in venue, and means that everyone will be waited on.

In conclusion Steve stated that he very much hoped we would continue having fun in the future.

**Brian Pearson.**

A plea was put out to support the Ukrainian guests that we currently have in Somerton. There is an organisation based in Wincanton called Donate IT.

They are collecting tablets, phones and laptops which are refurbished and can then help our guests when they are communicating with their home in Ukraine or applying for jobs in the UK. All equipment is wiped of personal data. If the equipment cannot be refurbished then it will be sold on for the charity.

The meeting was then concluded and David welcomed the speaker for the morning.