

## **Minutes of the Somerton U3A Annual General Meeting**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020 Via Zoom Link**

### **1. Welcome.**

Judi Powell opened the meeting, which is via Zoom link for the first time. She thanked Laurence Reeves for setting it up. A poll was taken to see if we have the required number for a quorum. Under the Constitution 49 members are required to attend the meeting to form a quorum. The result of the poll showed 52 members were attending. The result of the poll is filed with the minutes. Judi explained that during the meeting there would be a further 3 polls.

Judi read out the names of members who had died this year and asked for a few moments of quiet reflection.

**Jacqui Mountain  
Elizabeth Smith  
Maureen Jordan  
Pamela Taylor  
Jean Francis  
Pat Sullivan  
Lizzie Cooper  
Nesta Baker  
Beryl Bradnam**

### **2. Apologies:**

No apologies have been received.

### **3. Minutes of the 2019 meeting:**

A poll to accept the minutes was taken and carried.

### **4. Matters Arising:**

None.

### **5. Chairman's report**

Judi opened by saying what a very strange year this has been and the last time we were all at a monthly meeting in Edgar Hall was back in February.

Although there had been lowlights much has also been achieved over the past months. The Group Leaders' Lunch, the adoption of Beacon without which we would not have been able to launch our monthly Newsletter. £640 was raised at the Macmillan Coffee Morning and £170 raised for Charlton Farm, Children's Hospice South West.

Judi has been amazed at the resilience of groups to carry on safely through Zoom meetings: Raspberry Pi, Ukulele, Reading Groups, Lunch Groups and more recently at a safe distance, Recorders, Gardening Group, birdwatching and many other groups who have found ways to continue despite the ongoing Covid-19 situation.

In line with our Constitution several Trustees must resign at the AGM. This has given the opportunity to welcome new Trustees on to the Committee.

Judi told the meeting that over the past 6 months the Committee have continued to meet with the help of Zoom meetings. The work has carried on throughout this time even though there have been many challenges.

The Annual Accounts for 2019/20 had to be prepared and finalised by our Accountants who were still working from home. Once these were approved the financial situation of the Somerton U3A had to be analysed in great depth. Income v expenditure came under greater scrutiny than ever before.

Our annual Enrolment Day had to be cancelled but membership renewal forms were sent out to all existing members. Articles have been placed in all the local free publications to encourage new members to join Somerton U3A. Judi was pleased to report that 250+ members have renewed.

The 2020 AGM was the biggest challenge. It was impossible to meet in person and our alternative was to agree to hold this virtual AGM. Many of the trustees have attended AGM tutorials run by National Office.

Judi expressed her hopes for the future that we will be able to resume as many groups as it is safely possible to do and that, with the members support, we will continue to enjoy the learning and friendship which have proved to be so important in our lives at this unprecedented time.

Judi reiterated that the Committee, the Trustees, will continue to have the members best interests in their minds as they start the next 12 months.

#### **6. Treasurer:**

David Harrison advised the meeting that he answered any specific points raised by members. After 5 years as Treasurer, this is his last report and he thanked everyone who he has had dealings with during this time. The accounts have now been brought into line with the Charity Commissions requirements.

The Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for the Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 are filed with the minutes. A Zoom poll was taken, and the accounts were carried.

#### **7. Election of Trustees to the Committee:**

The following people are standing down from the Committee, Kay Williamson (Secretary), David Harrison (Treasurer), Joan Bradbury (Membership Secretary), John Rickards and Julie Hopkins (Committee Members). Judi thanked them all for their hard work on behalf of Somerton U3A, they will all be missed. Four new people will be joining the Committee, Liz Short, Mike Davis, Laurence Reeves and Sue Haigh. The Committee will be: Judi Powell (Chairman), Liz Short (Treasurer), Sue Haigh (Secretary), Valerie Taylor (Group Organiser), Marilyn Muffett (Membership Secretary), David Robins (Speaker Organiser), Mike Davis (Newsletter co-editor), Laurence Reeves (Beacon Administrator).

The vote for the re-election of the current members and new members to form the new committee was carried.

Although no longer serving on the Committee Kay Williamson will continue as Newsletter co-editor.

**8. A.O.B**

Judi told the meeting she has received a few questions, all of which have been answered directly.

David Robins advised the meeting that he has organised monthly Zoom meetings until February 2021, detailed will be in the next monthly newsletter. Reminders prior to each meeting will be sent to members via Beacon. Judi thanked him for his work in arranging the virtual meetings.

Judi informed the meeting that a lot of work on Risk Assessments has been undertaken by Kay, unfortunately as a result of the change on Covid-19 rules these were all on hold, although she hoped they would be able to be adapted for use in the future.

Judi emphasized the need for good communication in these difficult times and asked that members respond to e-mails from Group Leaders. She reiterated that the monthly newsletter has been a great success and had come at the right time.