

WADHURST U3A

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 21 October 2020 by Zoom at 2:45 pm

Committee Members Present: Jacqui Harman (JH) Chair, Paul G. Brown (PB), Allan Newton (AN), John O'Dwyer (JD), Mike King (MK), Sheila King (SK) Pamela Coyne (PC0), Philip Cheung (PC), Sheila Jemmett (SJ) and 28 members.

1. Apologies for absence: Sally and John Warlow, Rosemary Collins, Lynda Emberson, Judith Whiteman and Margaret Jones.

2. Minutes of the last meeting (published on the website):

Accepted as a true and accurate record by a poll of attendees.

3. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 (published on the website):

JH Presented the following report:

Under normal circumstances we would be meeting in the newly refurbished Commemoration Hall and I would be reporting on what a wonderfully successful year we have enjoyed. However, as we all know these are not normal times and so we find ourselves here today meeting via Zoom.

In September last year we were lucky enough to enjoy a Birthday Afternoon Tea at Dale Hill Hotel followed in December by our Annual Christmas get together with entertainment provided by Justine Clark; both events were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Just as we were looking forward to planning our social events for the year the world turned upside down with the arrival of Covid-19 and with it lock down and all the restrictions that have impacted on our lives. Who would have though in March that we would still be wearing masks and socially distancing in October?

The government restrictions on gatherings has meant that we have been unable to enjoy our monthly speaker meetings and for many groups it has proved difficult to continue. However, not to be deterred, our resourceful members have found ways and means for some groups to continue to meet whether outside, virtually, or with updates on the website. I am incredibly proud of you all and would like to thank the group convenors for helping the groups to meet wherever possible.

Our membership numbers remain high and we currently have 267 members. As you know earlier in the year the Trustees took the decision to extend all current memberships, without cost, for a further year; a decision welcomed by all. Thank you to those who have sent emails and letters expressing your approval and gratitude.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Philip for continuing as Editor of our quarterly news magazine which makes for an interesting and entertaining read. However, Philip needs your input and I would ask that you try and contribute whenever possible. The deadline for the next issue is 20 November - so get scribbling!

PB presented the following report on the Accounts for the year ended 30m June 2020

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts has been on the website for the last two months. Wadhurst U3A is financially secure, the total income £22,411 and expenditure £21,261 with a surplus of £1,150. The General Fund stands at £7,140 and the Personal Development Fund at

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£506. These reserves which have built up over the years has enabled us to waive the fees for the current year.

The Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for 2020 were unanimously accepted by a poll of the attendees.

4. Appointment of Independent Examiner:

Mr John Francis of Groombridge, formerly of Lindeyer Francis Ferguson Limited, Chartered Accountants, was reappointed as the Charity's Independent Examiner by a unanimous poll of the attendees.

5. Group Co-Ordinators Report

SK presented the following report:

Since the start of the year I am pleased to report that the number of interest groups has increased by the addition of a new Art group based in Wadhurst and a Mah-Jong group both of which started meeting in January. Unfortunately, the Craft group decided to disband, leaving the overall number of groups now at 34. We were in the process of forming a new Computer Friendly group when all meetings were halted by the Covid-19 lock down in March.

However, as Jacqui said we are impressed by the ingenuity of some of the groups who have managed to continue their meetings. This has been done either by using Zoom like the Yoga group or some have been meeting outdoors like the Walking group and the Ticehurst Art group (weather permitting).

Last October we held a successful Group Convenor meeting where we discussed several topics including the U3A insurance and health and safety issues and how these affect the running of all group meetings. As we are not able to hold such a meeting at present, I would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Elizabeth Taylor and Hazel Hemsley who are standing down and to again thank all convenors for their hard work. Looking forward to seeing you all next year!

6. Election of Officers:

JH took the chair:

The following members were elected to the positions indicated by the unanimous decision carried out by a poll of the attendees:

Jacqui Harman (JH) Chair
John O'Dwyer (JD) Vice Chair
Paul Brown (PB) Treasurer
Mike King (MK) Business Secretary
Philip Cheung (PCH) Committee Member
Pamela Coyne (PC) Committee Member
Sheila Jemmett (SJ) Committee Member
Sheila King (SK) Committee Member

All existing members are standing bar one. It is with much regret that I must announce that Allan Newton has decided not to stand for re-election this year. Many moons ago, Allan and I were founder members of U3A. His dedication, hard work and incredible knowledge of a wide variety of subjects has been an absolute godsend. Our database designed and implemented by Allan, with the help of Jean Turner, allows us as an organisation to run smoothly with information just the touch of a button away. It is an envy of other U3As.

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I am afraid Allan, any thoughts you may have of putting your feet up will be short lived. I know that I for one will be sending emails and/or telephoning for help on a regular basis for an awfully long time to come. So, Allan it is with grateful thanks for everything that we would like to present you with this token of our appreciation from the Trustees and all the membership. I will arrange to deliver this to you in the next few days.

7. Any Other Business

a. JH mentioned that we have 16 members without internet access. We contacted them in connection with the AGM to ask if they would like to receive postal details of the meeting. It was apparent in some cases members were appreciative of the contact, and it was discussed how we might assist them. It was mentioned that we could put them in contact with Carillon Cottage who have a system to contact people in this situation. JH felt we could do more as a membership and we will be sending out Christmas Cards to these members in December. The possibility of holding a socially distanced coffee morning at the White Hart was also suggested. Any other ideas would be welcomed.

b. Jane Austin raised the possibility of Zoom meetings of the membership, and in particular a Group Convenors meeting. It was agreed to look into the possibility of holding one.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 15:30.

Mike King
Business Secretary
Wadhurst U3A