

## WADHURST U3A

### ***Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 20 October 2022 in Wadhurst Commemoration Hall at 2:15 pm***

*Committee Members Present: Philip Cheung (PCH) Chair, John O'Dwyer (JD), Mike King (MK), Sheila King (SK) Pamela Coyne (PC0), Sheila Jemmett (SJ) Jane Austin (JA) and 35 members.*

**1. Apologies for absence:** Norwill Hazell, Rosemary Collins, Freddie Burcombe, Eileen Lapworth, Dorothy Bennett, Philippa Standley, David Slater, Mary Brewer, Hazel Hemsley, Richard Thomas, Cindy and Graham Burden.

**2. Minutes of the AGM 2021 (published on the website):**

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

### **3. Chair's Report**

It was a year to recover from the worse of COVID, but also fighting off its persistence, right up to today.

- Membership

October 2021 255 (possibly 10 new members)

January 2022 191

October 2022 215 (24 new members since last AGM)

- Events

There was reduced attendance at events. Some events had to be cancelled but the Gardeners' trip to Yorkshire went ahead as well as the Birthday Party. We had to suspend our monthly social meet-up at the White Hart including meeting new members.

- Interest Groups

These reduced from 31 to 26. JA will refer to plans for new groups later.

In moving forward, we should remind ourselves of our principles as follows:

- Third Age - We are for retired and semi-retired people.
- Self-help learning - We learn new things together by ourselves passing on knowledge to one another.
- Mutual Aid - We volunteer giving our services freely to others, including the admission of members of other u3a to some of our interest groups, as has been the practice for some years.

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#### 4. Treasurer's Report

We ended the financial year 2021-22 with a surplus of £ 1,656, despite COVID and the consequent reduction in our activities caused by it. We were able to resume our annual membership fee of £25 having been waived in the previous year.

I am pleased to report that our reserves stood at £ 5,433 at the end of the financial year, of which £871 was held on behalf of groups for visits etc. We are therefore in a much healthier overall financial position once again.

The detailed Accounts and information are shown on the Wadhurst U3a website.

#### 5. Interest Group Coordinator Plans

JA explained that she has taken over the position of Group Co-Ordinator and Webmaster. This means she is the person who updates the latest information on groups on the website.

She encouraged members to look at the noticeboard as some very interesting activities are underway such as:

- Monday 24 October 2022 -Elsie Owusu will be giving a talk to the Modern Architecture Group about The Refurbishment of the Supreme Court of the UK. This is open to all members.
- Tuesday 1 November -Tea and chat session at Carillon Cottage. These are to be held on a monthly basis throughout the Winter.
- The Active Plus 20:20:20 group sessions at Uplands which are getting more interest. She encouraged people to join for some light exercise including beginners over the Winter months.

There are also the prospect of some new groups forming such as:

- Croquet (Wadhurst) and Petanque (on the new pitch in Ticehurst). Both groups would operate during the Summer months.
- Armchair travellers - People would get together and talk about places or a country they have visited.
- Current affairs -This would be a discussion group on our ever-changing political landscape.
- History - It is hoped to reform the History Group which was very popular in the past.
- Spanish conversation - This would be dependent on finding a Spanish speaking person who could lead the group.

#### 6. Appointment of Officers

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

- Chair Philip Cheung
- Vice Chair John O'Dwyer
- Business Secretary Marianne Whittingdale
- Treasurer Sheila King
- Committee of Trustees Jane Austin  
Norwill Hazell  
Sheila Jemmett  
Mike King

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The only existing member not standing was Pam Coyne who was standing down as Membership Secretary. PCH thanked her for her services and made a floral presentation to her.

**7. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts for 2022 (published on the website):**

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

**8. Vote for new logo (or not)**

PCH said that there was a need for our logo to demonstrate that we are not just for Wadhurst but we also encompass the surrounding area.

There were 3 options put forward as follows:

- No change
- Wadhurst U3a and District
- Wadhurst ++ U3a

A poll was conducted and by a majority Wadhurst and District was preferred.

**9 Appointment of Independent Examiner:**

Mr Nicholas Warren-Smith was duly appointed the Charity's Independent Examiner.

There being no further business the meeting was declared closed at 14:45

Mike King  
Business Secretary  
Wadhurst U3A