

Minutes of AGM held on 2nd March 2023 at Wymondham Central Hall



The meeting commenced at 14:00 with 162 members in attendance (29%)

Apologies for Absence

Received from Liz and Robert Annison, Lin Brett, Ann and Ian Byrne, Sue Heal, Jane Hendriks, Karen Stead, Roberta Watt, June Websdale and Penelope White

Minutes of 2022 AGM

The previous AGM had been held on 3rd March 2022, with the minutes having been approved by the Committee and circulated to the membership prior to this meeting. The adoption of those minutes was proposed by Tony Vale and seconded by Diana Grant.

Matters Arising from the 2022 AGM Minutes

There were no matters arising.

Chair's Address

Gilly Spencer gave the Chair's address. She commented that 3 years ago she had been delighted to become Chair, with it being her way of being able to put something back into an organisation that had given so much to her husband, John and herself.

Little did everyone know what was coming, however Gilly stated that we were now bigger, better, stronger and definitely flourishing. For this she wanted to thank from the bottom of her heart all those members who had contributed in any way, great or small in keeping the show on the road and helping to make this such a lively and happy u3a. Our membership and groups had grown with it being possible to fill every day participating in something, not to mention our great social activities.

Gilly mentioned that we had gained a reputation for being active and very friendly, which she was so proud of. She stressed that everybody was special as we all had unique stories to tell and knowledge to share. As social animals who needed other people it had been a real joy to her to welcome new members and to see them making friends, becoming involved and really growing in confidence. Our coffee mornings buzzed with chat and laughter and that she felt, said it all.

Finally Gilly wanted to thank everyone for allowing her such a privilege and honour and she hoped that she had justified the members' belief in her. In closing her address, she wished the new Chair all the very best.

Treasurer's Report

Geoffrey Briggs gave the Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31st December 2022. He acknowledged the assistance given by Iris Burden in taking the money at coffee mornings and to Stuart Crowther for passing on his knowledge as the previous treasurer. Geoffrey confirmed that the accounts for the year had been examined by Ian Barnes. These were displayed on the screen together with charts showing income, expenditure and assets/liabilities, which Geoffrey explained in turn.

The effects of Covid on the finances had now diminished with the General Account Bank Balance increasing by £1074 to £4056 and the Social Account increasing to £4542, which made available the funding for the reduction in membership fees for this year. Membership income had been £7500, the attendance at coffee mornings showed solid growth and the General Reserve had increased by £340. Capitation fees to The Third Age Trust and the cost of their magazine represented most of the expenditure at £3944. There had been welcome compensation and refund payments of £250 from Nat West and £168 from Norfolk C.C. respectively. Geoffrey advised that our monthly speaker costs had increased, reflecting the desire to have good quality talks.

With banks now closing in Wymondham, the need to prepare for the cashless society was apparent. Geoffrey concluded by explaining what constituted the General and Social Accounts and the rationale used by John Dollimore in charging for events and holidays.

The adoption of the accounts was proposed by Jan Grey and seconded by Chris Watts.

Membership Report

Jo Sinclair gave the Membership Report. She stated that our membership continued to grow steadily and in the last year it had increased from 523 to 568, of which 316 were individual and 252 joint members. 69% of the membership were female and 31% male. Renewal of membership was currently underway and Jo was thankful for the patience shown whilst she became conversant with the Beacon software and the new card machine.

Jo then reminded attendees that John Spencer had been Membership Secretary for the past 5 years and that she be allowed to put on record everyone's appreciation and thanks for all his hard work during that time.

Groups' Report

As the recently retired Groups' Co-Ordinator, Alan Browne gave the Groups' Report (Stuart Crowther having since taken on the role). Alan advised that there were currently 67 active groups. He expressed his thanks to all group leaders, without whom groups would not function and for their flexibility in accommodating additional members or agreeing to set up a new group to reduce waiting lists.

In paying tribute to all group leaders Alan singled out a couple. He was especially proud of the Sunday Lunch for Singles groups and wished to thank Pam Yeomans and Alan Provis in establishing these groups, pointing out that Sundays can be very lonely for those on their own.

Alan also thanked Stuart Crowther for taking on the Co-Ordination role in January, allowing him to trial short courses and workshops. Over 5 events in February and March there had been 93 attendances. Alan believed the trial had established that there was a place for such events in the future. He was now looking for some assistance in fulfilling the role. Stuart in turn praised Alan for his excellent work as Groups' Co-Ordinator.

Questions and Answers

There were no questions to be answered.

Election of Committee Members

There had been 2 candidates willing to be nominated for Chair. These being Chris Yemm and John Dollimore. A paper ballot had been taken from the members attending the AGM and John Dollimore was duly elected as Chair. Gilly Spencer gave her thanks to Chris Yemm for her candidacy and her congratulations to John Dollimore. It had been agreed with the candidates that Gilly would remain in the Chair for the remainder of this AGM.

It was proposed by the Chair to elect the remaining Officers and Committee Members en bloc, there having been the one nomination for each role. This was further proposed by Pauline Dore and seconded by Val Smith. A vote was taken and all other Officers and Committee Members listed below were elected unanimously.

Officer Posts

Chair: John Dollimore - Proposed by John Coadwell, Seconded by Valerie Smith

Vice Chair: John Peat - Proposed by John Dollimore, Seconded by Alan Provis

Secretary: Howard Brown - Proposed by Tony Vale, Seconded by Nigel Evans

Treasurer: Geoffrey Briggs - Proposed by Tony Vale, Seconded by Pat Brown

Other Committee Members

Groups' Co-Ordinator: Stuart Crowther - Proposed by Sandra Fellingham, Seconded by Iris Burden

Membership Secretary: Jo Sinclair - Proposed by Susan Smith, Seconded by John Smith

I.T. Services: Chris Grant - Proposed by Sandra Fellingham, Seconded by Barbara Fielder

Speakers Secretary: Georgette Vale - Proposed by Iris Burden, Seconded by Nigel Evans

Any Other Business

Alan Browne gave thanks to Gilly Spencer on behalf of the Committee for undertaking the role of Chair for the last 3 years. He mentioned that a lot of u3as had gone into hibernation during the Covid lockdowns but particularly through Zoom Meetings, the Newsletter and e-mails, Gilly had ensured that contact with the membership continued as best as possible. Since then she had organised open days, additional groups and extra coffee mornings. In conclusion on behalf of her friends at our u3a, Alan expressed his gratitude for Gilly's generosity of spirit and presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Gilly responded by thanking the Committee for their support and presented gifts to the retiring Committee Members: Linda Burkett, Alan Browne and John Spencer with much appreciation.

The meeting then closed at 14:30.