

The Charnwood u3a

Registered Charity no. 1076107

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 2.30 ON MARCH 8th 2023

1. Welcome and Apologies

Chair Mike Hood welcomed 129 members to the Annual General Meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Elizabeth Charlesworth, Michael Charlesworth, Roy Faulkner, Richard Gilbert, Maria Jansen, Marie Kennedy, Anita Lancaster, Gordon Lancaster, Elizabeth Peers, Rosie Peters and Hilary Unwin.

2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 9th March 2022

Proposed by John Evans and seconded by Lily Robinson, the minutes were approved and signed as accurate.

3. Reception and Approval of the Annual Report

In his final report as Chair of Charnwood u3a, Mike was happy to report a full year of face to face meetings after the restrictions imposed by the pandemic. In a milestone year, in which the u3a movement reached its 40th year, Cu3a celebrated its own 25th anniversary with a picnic in the park attended by over 100 members. The membership now numbered over 1000, in part thanks to the 80+ members joining from Loughborough u3a, which closed at the end of 2022. Their sad closure, he said, was a reminder that however healthy our current numbers, we must all work together to ensure the continuation of our u3a.

Mike was pleased to report the start up of two new interest groups, Current Affairs and French Improvers, and the re-launch of the Painting Group. Ten new groups had joined from Loughborough, bringing our total to around 100.

The Committee had approved a number of new and revised policies, (in line with Third Age Trust guidelines) including Complaints, Disciplinary and Privacy policies. The Beacon Membership Management system had been problematic for many – including the Committee - and the long promised upgrade, Beacon 2, seemed unlikely to happen, prompting the investigation of alternative packages. Simple Membership, created specifically for u3as, appeared the best alternative and changeover is likely to take place during summer 2023. Mike thanked everyone who had completed the Monthly Meetings Survey; a working group would be set up to explore ways of increasing attendance.

In stepping down, Mike thanked the Trustees for their support and dedication over three difficult years, giving particular thanks to Diana Harvey, who was also leaving the

Committee and Graham Cooper, who was stepping down as Programme Secretary. Mike also thanked Tony Westaway, who was also stepping down as a Committee member, though he would continue as a co-opted member until his planned move from the area.

In conclusion, Mike had no doubt that the team of Committee members would continue to support all members of Charnwood u3a to the best of their ability.

Proposed by Philip Devine and seconded by Helen Davison, the Annual Report was approved unanimously and a vote of thanks given to the Committee.

4. Treasurer's Report, Draft Annual Accounts and 2023/24 Budget Forecast

Bob was pleased to report that the Cu3a finances were in good order and the reserves much the same as at the previous year end. Fixed costs such as the Third Age Matters magazine had been raised slightly from £3.50 to £3.55 and the Capitation fee, as expected, increased by 50p to £4.00 per member.

Membership would continue to be our major source of income and the assimilation of members from Loughborough u3a would be a welcome boost to funds. At present, Bob was not recommending an increase in the current subscriptions, though he cautioned that an increase might be necessary in future.

The system for the management of group funds established at the end of 2020 was working satisfactorily, but Bob pointed out that a number of Interest Groups were not using the facility. He wished to remind groups that funds not under the direct control of Charnwood u3a are not covered by our insurance. He went on to explain that corporate charge cards were now available for Interest Groups. The initial set-up fee had been borne centrally and a reasonable monthly charge would be met by the relevant interest group. To date only two groups had been issued with the cards and Bob was happy to help others adopt them.

A motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, Annual Accounts and 2023/24 Budget Forecast was proposed by Diana Harvey, seconded by Pauline May and passed unanimously.

5. Membership Subscriptions

The motion: *That membership subscriptions remain unchanged at £10 for 2023/24, representing a one third reduction, plus an additional £5 for members wishing to receive a paper copy of News and Views* was proposed by Tony Westaway, seconded by Helen Davison and approved unanimously.

6. Constitution.

Mike presented the new draft Constitution, bringing it in line, with minor amendments, with the Model Constitution produced with legal advice by the Third Age Trust. In answer to a question, Mike explained that one of the proposed amendments agreed by the

Committee, to increase the maximum total term of office for Trustees to 12 years, was necessary to protect the future viability of our organisation.

The motion to approve the new Constitution was proposed by Philip Devine, seconded by Pauline May and approved by the necessary two thirds majority.

7. Election of Committee Officers and Members.

a. Chair

The nomination of Pam Upton, proposed by Jane Taylor and seconded by Rosemary Hives was approved unanimously.

b. Secretary

The nomination of Debra Hardwick, proposed by Mike Hood and seconded by Pam Upton, was approved unanimously.

c. Treasurer

The nomination of Bob Pyatt, proposed by Margaret Pyatt and seconded by Peggy Kinley, was approved unanimously.

d. Vice Chair

The nomination of Garry Rigby, proposed by Chris Lever and seconded by Jane Peck, was approved unanimously.

e. Election of Committee Members

The nomination of Geetha Bala, proposed by Tony Payne and seconded by Dilys Payne, was approved unanimously.

The nomination of Phil Bass, proposed by Stephen Morris and seconded by Martyn Speight, was approved unanimously.

The nomination of David Jefferson, proposed by Helen Davison and seconded by Martyn Davison, was approved unanimously.

The nomination of Peter Reid, proposed by Anthony Gimpel and seconded by Colin Revell, was approved unanimously.

8. AOB

Pam Upton gave a vote of thanks to Mike for his excellent stewardship over the past three years, noting in particular his hard work in keeping the u3a going during lockdown, presiding over the 25th Anniversary Picnic and welcoming over 80 new members from Loughborough u3a. Members expressed their thanks and appreciation with a hearty round of applause.

The meeting closed at 3pm.

Accepted as correct, March 13th 2024: Pam Upton, Chair

