

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Venue: ST EMMANUEL CHURCH, FOREST ROAD, LOUGHBOROUGH

Date & Time: Wednesday 13th March 2024 2.30pm

Pam Upton welcomed 133 members to the Annual General Meeting 2024, making the meeting comfortably quorate. Two tellers were appointed, Sam Hardwick and Ian Proctor-Blaine, in case a count of hands was required for voting.

1. Apologies for absence were received from:

Heather Bailey, Jancis Barlow, Kishor Dave, Roy Faulkner, Hazel Fish, Ann Gimpel, Diane Harper, George Ince, Iris Jones, Mo Murray, Peter Reid, Jennifer Rice, Gillian Strachan, Lesley Tyers, Cath Way, Avril Wilkinson

2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on Wednesday 9th March 2023 to be approved and signed.

No corrections. Unanimously approved.

3. Reception and Approval of the Chair's Annual Report 2023-4

Pam Upton was pleased to report that the membership now numbered well over 1000, with close to 100 groups. New groups included Pickleball, Laughter (Yoga) Club, Reading and Recorder groups. She regretted that, for a variety of reasons, some groups had folded and urged groups to look at sharing responsibility for organising meetings, so that when a group leader steps down, others can take over.

A number of policy documents had been added or updated during the year, including a new Finance Policy. Updated policies included: Privacy Policy, Complaints Procedure and Disciplinary Policy. The Cu3a Group Management Guide had also been updated, while an updated Potential Venues list and Accessibility Audit would shortly be available.

The new website system, Simple Membership was now up and running and Pam informed those present that the Beacon system would no longer be available after 31st March 2024. Pam then asked how many of those attending had used the new system website. The show of hands was surprisingly high and very encouraging. A similar number had also logged in.

Pam went on to thank everyone involved in the u3a, particularly, the Committee and those with important support roles, including the Welcome Team, the Refreshments Team (Pat & Doris) and the team who organise the Speaker Programme. This was followed by an enthusiastic round of applause.

The Chair's report was unanimously approved.

4. Reception and Approval of the Treasurer's Report, Annual Accounts and Budget Forecast.

Bob Pyatt confirmed that this was his sixth and final report as Treasurer. In his written report he noted that the Cu3a finances were in good order, although reserves had decreased. The affiliation fee remained currently at £4.00 per member, which, coupled with the subscription to the TAM magazine, amounted to some two-thirds of our 2023 subscription. Hence his support for the motion on the present agenda to reinstate the £15 annual Cu3a subscription.

Bob also noted in his report that a number of interest groups were still not managing their funds via the central Cu3a system. Group funds are 'ring-fenced' under this system and Bob reminded group leaders that those funds not under direct control of Charnwood u3a are not covered by our insurance.

Bob commended the use of Corporate Chargecards as a practical way of managing expenses for certain groups. A reasonable monthly charge is levied by Lloyds bank, which is passed on to the relevant interest group(s). Enquiries should be made to the incoming Treasurer.

The Treasurer's Report was unanimously approved.

Moving on to the **Annual Accounts and Budget Forecast**, Bob stated that his document was an analysis of the accounts for 2023 and the forecast for 2024. Prior to the meeting he had responded to a query about the 2023 subscriptions. He explained that the subscriptions for 2023 were recorded at £15000 because during 2023 Charnwood u3a assimilated Loughborough u3a and the funds subsequently transferred to us were counted in lieu of subscriptions.

The Annual Accounts and Budget Forecast were unanimously approved.

Pam then proposed a vote of thanks for Bob as the outgoing Treasurer. This was seconded by Graham Cooper, approved unanimously and roundly applauded.

5. Motion requiring a vote.

Pam read the following motion: *That membership subscriptions be reinstated at £15, with an additional annual £5 for those receiving News and Views by post. This subscription to remain in place (barring unforeseen circumstances) until 2027.*

An amendment from the Committee proposed that this would become effective from 1st August 2024, since the new renewal system on SM was a rolling one, not according to a fixed calendar date. New members would therefore renew on the anniversary of their joining.

Pam reiterated the reasons for this motion. Firstly, it was a reinstatement of the previous membership subscription. (During the Covid pandemic the rate was dropped to £10 and held for 2 years.) Secondly, there was a real possibility that without the change, we would have to draw on our reserves. Additionally, some of our current equipment needed updating. Finally, affiliation fees to the National u3a may increase in 2025.

The motion was proposed by Diana Harvey, seconded by Anthony Gimpel and approved unanimously.

6. Election of Officer and Committee Members.

Pam announced 3 nominations.

Firstly, for the new Treasurer, Pam Towers, nominated by Martyn Speight and seconded by Ruth Grantham. In response to a question from the floor, the Chair stated that Pam was as an ex maths teacher, accountancy trained, and has acted as a treasurer and audited other charity accounts.

Another member said we should be very thankful to Pam for stepping into the role which prompted a round of applause.

The election was approved unanimously.

Sue Ronald had been nominated to be re-elected to the Committee as she had finished her first 3 year term.

Proposed by Liz Lamb and seconded by Jane North. Sue's re-election was approved unanimously.

Finally, the election of a new Committee member, David Jefferson, proposed by Carole Jefferson and seconded by Mike Hood, was approved by an overwhelming majority, with one abstention.

AOB

That concluded the business of the AGM as there was no AOB.

The meeting closed at 14.50pm.

Accepted as a true record. Pam Upton-Chair.

