

AGM MINUTES

EXETER U3A

22nd April 2021 at 10.30 via Zoom

1 Welcome

Due to current coronavirus restrictions, it had been agreed to hold the AGM by Zoom with voting by Zoom poll on the day. To avoid disenfranchising members who were unable or unwilling to attend by Zoom it was also agreed to allow voting in advance by post, e-mail or completion of an on-line Google Form. All members voting in advance or on the day would count towards the quorum.

On the 22nd April we had 508 paid up members so needed 102 to meet our 20% quorum.

Actual voting figures were as follows

Attending and voting by Zoom	86
Voting in advance by Google Form	62
Voting in advance by e-mail	12
Voting in advance by post	6
Total votes cast	166

The meeting was declared to be quorate.

2 Apologies

All members who did not attend the meeting but voted by other means are regarded as having sent their apologies. One additional member who was planning to attend the meeting by Zoom but was unable to at short notice also sent their apologies.

3 Minutes of the last AGM (vote required)

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 25th April 2019 had been circulated in advance of the meeting and no comments or corrections has been received.

Voting figures were as follows

For	152
Against	0
Abstain	14
Total votes cast	166

The minutes were accepted as a true and fair record of the Meeting.

4 Matters arising

None

5 Annual Report and Accounts

The Annual Report and Accounts had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Phil Slater, Chair, commented on the difficult year we have all experienced and thanked the committee for carrying on. Some committee members were unable to stand down due to being unable to hold an AGM in 2020. Despite lockdown the committee were busy reviewing and updating policies which are now on our website. Our finances are in good order thanks to Keith Shaw, Treasurer, and Steph Ward, assistant Treasurer. Changes were also made to our website so all in all the committee have been working hard behind the scenes. Overall we are in a good position and will be full steam ahead after lockdown. Phil encouraged members to keep abreast of the current government and u3a guidelines. Hopefully normality will return this summer and there will be a steady growth in membership which has fallen recently due to lockdown. Our u3a day is planned for June in order to recruit new members. The committee have a u3a day working party and ideas for recruitment of new members are using Facebook, placing ads in local newspapers and magazines and holding an event in the centre of Exeter. Details will be sent out shortly.

We can elect up to 12 members onto the committee and can co-opt 3 members during the year. We need new people on the committee and Phil asked that members please consider this.

Phil gave thanks for all those who contribute to u3a in order for it to thrive. Not all members are recognised but their support is essential and much appreciated.

No questions about the Annual Report and Accounts had been received in advance but Phil invited any questions from those attending the meeting.

Ruth Sanders asked Keith how much of the £20k in our account was from people renewing as she felt there should be a note that not all is reserves. Keith asked Steph to respond as she had produced the figures. Steph replied that around 500 members renewed taking advantage of the discount so around £5k represents how much people have paid in membership fees. Steph agreed to check and send the exact figure to Ruth after the meeting.

Ruth also felt that money raised from the gardening group from plant sales should be identified. She also felt that money raised should be ring fenced for their use only and this view was seconded by Janie Smallridge. Steph pointed out that any money raised from u3a groups is for all, and is not ring fenced. Ruth would like recognition in the no 2 bank account of monies raised by the gardening group and she would like to know how much has been raised in the past. Steph agreed that she would send her these figures.

6 Adoption of the new constitution (vote required)

The new and old Constitution had been sent via Beacon to members together with a list of the changes. One change is that the quorum for the AGM will become 10% instead of 20%. Also, we will be able to count votes done electronically and by post.

No questions about the Constitution had been received in advance but Phil invited any questions from those attending the meeting.

Ruth Sanders had concerns that the new Constitution 'objects' were not the same as the Annual Report sent to members. Steph wondered if Ruth had in mind the old version as the new Constitution does have those points and is almost identical but with slightly different wording.

Steph promised to let Ruth have a copy of the new Constitution where the wording of part 1 is slightly different from the previous version but part 2 remains exactly the same. See below:

3. Objects

The charity's objects ('the objects') are

(1) The advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Exeter and surrounding district.

(2) The provision of facilities for leisure time and recreational activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their social welfare."

Voting figures were as follows

For	159
Against	0
Abstain	7
Total votes cast	166

The new Constitution was adopted.

7 Committee Elections (vote required)

Details of nominated committee member with their proposers and seconders had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Voting figures were are follows	For	Against	Abstain	Total
Vivienne Watson – Chair	159	0	7	166
Minna Egan – Secretary	158	0	8	166
Steph Ward – Treasurer	160	0	6	166
Anne Staley – Membership Secretary	158	1	7	166
Julia Crichton-Smith – Groups Co-ordinator	159	0	7	166
Lesley Churchill-Birch – Minutes Secretary	158	1	7	166

All nominated committee members were elected.

8 Any other business

No questions had been received in advance but Phil invited any questions from those attending the meeting.

John Williams wanted to know if the Mint were using their outside facilities. Viv informed him that she was planning a meeting with the Mint and would be finding out details regarding Covid rules and when groups could start again. Obviously we would have to obey their rules.

Rose Gander, a member of the gardening group, thanked Ruth for running the gardening group so well. She wondered if the Committee would consider a Zoom meeting regarding the way forward for this group, though she is not volunteering to be leader. Viv said they

could set up their own Zoom meeting which the Committee would be happy to join if needs be. There are around 50 people in the gardening group and a new leader is now required. Beacon is an area of concern in that members of the gardening group are not listed. Viv suggested that being a leader could be a shared role, one for admin and the other organising trips. Rose agreed this makes sense. Penny Amraoui suggested progressing this with the new group coordinator, Julie agreed.

Ruth Sanders proposed a vote of thanks for all committee members during this past year in difficult circumstances. She also proposed a vote of thanks to Keith who had to stay on another year and who had done tremendous work. She also proposed a special thanks to Phil who had planned to leave a year ago. Jan Rolfe is now leaving the committee, though continuing in her role as Speaker Secretary and thanks was also given to her.

Phil handed over his Chairmanship to the new Chair, Vivienne Watson. Vivienne commented on how important new members were and informed all that the u3a day is on the 2nd June 2021. We will be promoting this in various ways ie virtually and holding an event on the 21st June in Bedford Street. Vivienne is in the process of agreeing this with the owners. In October we are hopefully holding an event at St Stevens.

Vivienne thanked Phil for the past 4 years and Keith for 7 years on the Committee. During the past year Ann Mitchell, Amanda James and Kay Matthews resigned. Christine Lane no longer wants to do teas at the Mint which means we are in need of someone else to serve teas and coffees at the monthly meetings. We will be advertising this in the newsletter.