

DRAFT MINUTES

EXETER U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

25th May 2023 at 10:45 at the Mint

1 Welcome

Frances Berry, acting chair welcomed members to the meeting and thanked all members who had voted in advance by post, e-mail or via the on-line Google Form.

To be quorate the meeting needed to have a minimum of 10% membership present or voting in advance. On the 25th May we had 655 members and so needed 66 to be quorate. The actual numbers were:

Attending and voting on the 25 th	146
Voting in advance and not attending	78
Total attending	224

The meeting was declared to be quorate.

2 Choir

The choir entertained members with tree songs – Scooby Doo, Peanuts and Believe. Their performance was excellent and lifted the mood of the meeting wonderfully and applause was fulsome.

3 Apologies

Apologies were received from Ian Murray, Mike Arstall, Daphne Andrews, Pete Barwell, Colin Farlow, Joan Hyland, Mary McMullen and Michael Hosking.

4 Minutes of the last AGM

Rose Gander proposed and Dave Parsons seconded the approval of the minutes of the AGM of 26 May 2022. They were approved without dissent though 10 of those who had voted in advance of the meeting had abstained from voting.

5 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

6 Chair's report

The chair explained that our annual report had been circulated and is available on our website. She then went on to comment on how

much had been achieved in the last year by a small committee working as a team and with some working in dual roles. She commented on the promise of a larger committee for the current year and for succession in the following year and the resilience that would provide in taking the u3a forward. Steph Ward, our treasurer will have completed her full 3 years and will need to step down next year and she hopes to find someone who will shadow her during this year so as to be able to take on the role for 2024/25.

Our groups coordinator, Julie Crichton-Smith, has three people helping her in that task so sharing and co-working has begun for that important role.

The speaker team has been in place for three meetings now and is working well. Attendance has increased significantly, supported by a team of enthusiastic 'meeters and greeters', helping members to feel welcome at monthly meetings.

Following this meeting the committee will have doubled its membership with all key role filled and sharing and co-working begun.

The chair then sought to give special thanks to key members. Frances has been standing in for our chair, Vivienne Watson, who had to stand down and Frances has wanted to take her priorities forward. The new members welcome pack is now complete and in use and will appear on the website very shortly. The speakers' team is effective in supporting well attended monthly meetings and membership is close to its 2019 peak. She hoped that Vivienne would be pleased with the committee's efforts and thanked her for her guidance and leadership as chair since May 2021.

Frances thanked Minna Egan for her three and a half years on the committee and as secretary. She has been an example of how someone quite new to the u3a can step into a role and give great support, in her case as a principal communicator with the membership and the Third Age Trust, scheduling our meetings and preparing agendas. Frances encouraged members present to see that as an example of how we need members to take on roles in helping the u3a to work. She presented Minna with a bunch of flowers as a token of her thanks, acknowledging her commitment to support the new secretary going forward.

Special thanks were due to Trudi Learmouth for 11 years as newsletter editor and to the University liaison team supporting our special relationship with the University, a particular feature of Exeter u3a. Also to the web administrators for their work.

She thanked the group convenors without whose support that key part of the u3a's activities could not happen.

Finally she thanked the committee for their professional approach and commitment to a high standard of governance for Exeter u3a and then to all who help to keep things running smoothly.

7 Treasurer's report

Steph Ward introduces herself and thanked Frances for stepping into the role of chair and giving us the benefit of her wide experience of the u3a movement. She also thanked Daphne Andrews for the help she has given her in continuing as an unofficial membership secretary and the support she has given to herself and to Minna.

She exhibited a summary of the u3a's financial position which is robust in the face of anticipated financial demands and has a healthy reserve which ought to be allowed to reduce to in the region of £10-£15k in alignment with the advice of the Third Age Trust. She recommended our value for money with a membership renewal of only £12 and paid for venue fees of £1.50

8 Elections

The members were asked to approve the minutes of the AGM of 2022 and to vote for the election of nominees to the committee en bloc. Ruth Saunders proposed their election and Hilary Wilkinson seconded the proposal. The nominees were elected without dissent though there were small numbers of abstentions amongst those voting in advance.

ABSTENTIONS

Appoint Steph Ward to treasurer	1
Appoint Julie Crichton-Smith to Groups Coordinator	2
Appoint Dave Parsons to the committee	2
Appoint Steve Fabian to Speaker Secretary	1

The elected committee members were Nella Price, chair; Anna Warne, Co-Vice Chair, Julie Crichton-Smith, Co-Vice Chair and Groups Co-ordinator; Bill Cross, Secretary; Steph Ward, Treasurer; Terry Ancell, Membership Secretary; Annabel Nater, Co-Groups Co-ordinator; Steve Fabian, Speaker Secretary; Ann Harper, Minutes Secretary; Committee Members Dave Parsons, Mike Arstall, and Anne Barwell.

9 Any Other Business

There was no other business.

10 Any Questions

Derek Smithers explained that he was unable to participate in the monthly meetings because of the lack of sound provision for people with hearing difficulties. The chair undertook that the committee would look into the issue and report back.