

Minutes of the Edenbridge U3A Annual General Meeting

Held at the Crockham Hill Village Hall, 24th July 2018.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cathy Booth, Diane Brown, Ruth Flagg, Michelle Harrison, Liz Allen, Peter Egan, Diane Sharp, Anne Jagelman, Brenda Saunders, Betsy Wright.

2. Chairman's Report

Mike welcomed everyone to the 5th AGM and thanked all for attending. He said he was pleased to be the Chair of such a successful and ever growing U3A. The ethos of U3A which is committed to lifelong learning, is being achieved in the Edenbridge U3A which now has 250 members with nearly 60 active groups. This shows how lucky we are to have a membership with the skills and knowledge to impart. He added that he could not have managed organising such a group without the support of a very committed and hardworking group of people who serve on the Committee. He asked that they stood so that all could see the actual committee members and the membership showed their appreciation by loud and sustained applause.

Mike also commented on the monthly meetings held, that they were well attended and that was in part to the varied and wonderful assortment of speakers that had entertained us through the year. These were as diverse as The History of the Medway Queen, The History of England, A Magician, Stonehenge to Brexit and Skylab. He commented on our sound finances, which means the membership now enjoy free Tea and Biscuits.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the 4th AGM held on 25th July 2017

There were no matters arising. Members were asked to approve these minutes - the motion was proposed by Christine Byrne and seconded by Vivian Lawrence and carried.

4. Treasurer's report and Accounts for 2017/2018

The accounts were placed on the screen for all to see clearly. They can be accessed on the website, and Peter Welch (Treasurer) added that some hard copies were available in the hall. Our finances are very healthy and a balance of £3,954 will be carried forward. Approval of the accounts was proposed by Brian Swift, seconded by Helena Welch and carried.

It was noted that an increase in or Hall rental charges will take effect from 1st January 2019.

It was brought to group leader's attention again that records would need to be kept of any money that is collected by the leaders for example money for hall hire. These accounts will need to be forwarded to Peter Welch. Peter has examples of the very easy type of account record to be completed.

5. Confirm Appointment of Financial Adviser

Our new Financial Adviser is Joanna Unsworth FCCA, who has duly validated the accounts to 30th June 2018.

6. To Approve deleting clause 3 of the Constitution and replacing it by the following

Objects – “The Charity’s object is specifically restricted to the following:- The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development in Edenbridge and its surrounding locality”

(Note: This is a new standard Objects clause that all U3A’s have been asked to implement. The only variation being the regional reference). This was duly proposed, seconded and carried.

7. To approve deleting the number three where it appears in clauses 7(v), 7(vii) and 7(viii)(b) of the constitution and replacing it by the number 6

(Note: Currently the maximum period that executive Committee members may stay in office is a mixture of three and six years. This will standardise at six). This was duly proposed, seconded and carried.

8. To approve deleting the number 10 where it appears in clause 7(ii) of the constitution and replacing it by the number 12

(Note: this will enable the maximum number of Executive Committee members to be increased to 12). This was duly proposed, seconded and carried.

9. Nominations for Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary

The serving members were willing to carry on in their current roles as no other nominations had been received. That is Mike Collins as Chairman, Christine Byrne as Vice Chairman, Peter Welch as Treasurer and Cathy Booth as Secretary. Mike Collins stood aside and Colin Fairman took the Chair for the vote for Chairman, and he proposed that the vote be accepted, it was seconded and carried. Mike Collins then resumed his place as Chairman.

The Chairman then proposed as follows:

That

Christine Byrne be re-appointed as Vice Chair

Peter Welch be re-appointed as Treasurer

Cathy Booth be re-appointed as Secretary

This was duly seconded and passed

10. Nominations for the remaining Executive Committee Members

It was proposed that the remaining Executive Committee Members be re-elected, namely Estelle Barling, Colin Fairman, Brian and Lynn Swift, be re-elected. This was duly seconded and passed.

11. Approve the Annual Subscription rates for 2018/19

The Executive Committee has recommended that the subscription rates remain unchanged from 2016/17, they are £20 for a single member, £35 for a couple and £16.50 for those that belong to another U3A. This was proposed by Jenny Chettle, seconded by Brian swift and carried.

12. Any Other Business

- (i) Stephen Harding gave information on Data Protection. If members do not want their photos to appear either on the website or to have photos taken during group meetings/outings, please make sure that on the membership renewal forms you complete the statement to this effect. Also make your group organisers aware of your wishes. If a photo inadvertently appears on the website, please let the website manager know and it will be removed immediately. Contact him via admin@edenbridgeu3a.co.uk
- (ii) Mike Collins then brought to member's attention that two Committee posts had not been mentioned. The Organiser for the monthly Speakers and the Website/ Equipment Manager, respectively, Molly ward and Stephen Harding. Both had decided to stand down this year. They had both given 5 years of the most outstanding service to our membership.

Molly has been Chair and continued to organise the most wonderful and varied Speakers. She was asked to come forward and a gift was given in appreciation of her extensive and valuable service. Molly accepted with thanks and said she had enjoyed her time in her different roles, but now wanted to be an ordinary member. Paddy Jennings has come forward to take over this role, although he does not want to be a full time committee member. The members showed their appreciation by vigorous and sustained applause.

Mike then called forward our webmaster extraordinaire, Stephen Harding. He has set up and maintained the most wonderful website and blog spot that has even attracted Russians! Paul Dashwood has agreed to take over, and Stephen has produced the most extensive documentation to help him. Again a small gift in appreciation of the amazing work he has done was presented. Stephen accepted

with thanks and said he also wants to now enjoy some down time. Apparently his wife Mary will be very pleased to find he is not downstairs from 6am to late working. Again, the members showed their appreciation by vigorous and sustained applause and some cheers.

- (iii) The AGM was closed with a reminder that our next meeting will be 25th September as there is no meeting in August.

We were then royally entertained by The Dowager Lady Crabtree aka Paul James, and our free tea and biscuits.