

## **SOUTH WEST HERTS U3A**

### **Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting**

Held at Francis Combe Academy, Watford, on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2017, at 10.00 am

#### **Introduction**

Neville Halliwell (Chair) welcomed members to SW Herts U3A 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

#### **1. Present:** 205 members.

Apologies for absence were noted from Sylvia & Bob Baker, John Noonan, Bridget Finch, Mike Findley, Sandra Hunt, Barbara Noble, Brian Hodgson, Peter & Val Dawson, David & Judith Lovell, Martyn MacPhee, Mike and Elizabeth Parker.

#### **2. Minutes of the AGM held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 and matters arising**

The Minutes having been published on the U3A website, acceptance was proposed by Stewart Lewis, seconded by Keith Robertson and approved unanimously. There were no matters arising.

#### **3. Report from the Chair**

Neville Halliwell commented on the high standards set by the hardworking Executive Committee and praised all who had supported him in his first year as Chairman. He paid tribute to those who have organised events to celebrate the Fifteenth Anniversary, the Newsletter Team who continue to produce a high quality publication every month, Jackie Creed and the Catering Team who provide refreshments in a restricted environment for meetings and at other events, and the Leaders of 104 Study Groups. 2016 was the first year that our U3A had been unable to admit any new members, but following the formation of Woodside U3A under the guidance of Barbara and Stewart Lewis, it will be possible to offer membership to all on our current waiting list.

He encouraged members to support the raffle of a quilt made by the Patchwork & Quilting Group to commemorate the Fifteenth Anniversary, the proceeds to be split between the Peace Hospice and Kidney Research.

A quiet moment was kept for members who had sadly passed away during the year, together with one who had very recently died.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Brian Dorsett-Bailey, seconded by Jackie Creed and approved unanimously.

#### **4. To approve the examined Accounts**

Copies of the Accounts and Balance Sheet for the year ended 31st March 2017 with explanatory notes were distributed. David Adams, Treasurer, thanked the previous Treasurer for leaving the accounts in excellent order, all who had organised events and outings, and the auditor Gavin Peacock. He referred to the deficit of £1,235 on the Income & Expenditure Account, which was due to the fact that annual subscriptions had been lowered in order to reduce the accumulated surplus that had been achieved over several years. In answer to a question about charity donations, it was explained that although the U3A as a registered charity is not permitted to donate to another charity, money donated by members for a specific cause may be passed to charity and is shown in the accounts. Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Barbara Lewis, seconded by Peter Mason and approved unanimously.

**5. To appoint an Examiner of the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018**

Gavin Peacock agreed to remain as Examiner of the Accounts and was elected unanimously.

**6. To elect Committee Members to fill three vacancies for a term of three years**

June Parker, Peter Howarth and Barbara Trotman were the only nominations received and were elected unopposed, although one member registered an abstention in order to vary the proceedings.

**7. To confirm that those principal officers and committee members whose term of office has not expired are eligible to serve for a further year:**

Neville Halliwell, Stewart Lewis, David Adams, Jill Elliott, Teddy Bennell, Barbara Bestwick, Peter Dawson, Bridget Finch, Ariaan Winter.

All were elected unanimously.

**8. To approve the RECOMMENDATION from the Executive Committee:**

THAT for the year 2018-2019 the annual membership subscription for Full Members will remain at £20. For Full Members who are on Income Benefit or in receipt of Pension Credit the annual membership subscription will be £4 (proof of benefit or pension credit must be submitted).

The recommendation was approved unanimously.

**9. Any Other Business**

Teddy Bennell announced that there were a number of members who had served as Study Group Leaders or Contacts for at least ten years. The names were read and these members were invited to collect a certificate recognising their service. Certificates were also awarded to six people who had served throughout the U3A's 15 years, namely Edna Biddiss, John Felton (who accepted on behalf of his Coach Outings Team), Carol Frost, Kay Horsfield, Barbara Lewis and Helga Sodhi.

After some difficulties with the lapel microphone which proved a source of entertainment to those present, the Chairman presented certificates to those who had served on the Committee for 10 years or more - Ariaan Winter, Martyn MacPhee and Doreen Mason who had just retired after 12 years and was given a floral tribute. Neville Halliwell also expressed his particular personal thanks to Doreen Mason and Stewart Lewis.

John Britten proposed a vote of thanks to the spouses and partners of Committee members for their tolerance and understanding where U3A business took priority over personal matters.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.05 am.

Minutes signed as a true record .....(Chairman)

.....(Date)