



Buckingham & District U3A

Minutes

For the Annual General Meeting held at 2:30 pm Wednesday, 25th November 2020 via Zoom.

1. **Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone and opened the meeting. He declared the meeting quorate.

2. **Apologies**

None

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting, copies of which had been posted on the Society's website, were approved.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that in spite of the very difficult conditions imposed to combat the corona virus the Society had carried on its activities with many groups continuing to meet and monthly lectures via Zoom.

He noted that Carolina Kenealy, after many years of serving as the Newsletter Editor, has stepped down and, if the Newsletter is to continue, a member must volunteer to replace her.

He also emphasised the importance of shadows for Committee members so that someone is available if the Committee member is not available. The role is not arduous or time consuming and shadows do not have to attend all Committee meetings.

The Committee has invited Group Co-ordinators to attend Committee meetings to present their Group's activities and to learn more about the work of the Committee. This has been very successful.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to the Committee members for their work during the year.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Society ended the year with a surplus of £5,000 and the Committee had decided that membership in 2020 would be rolled over into 2021 and no subscriptions would be charged for the year.

The accounts for the year have been posted on the Society's website and the Treasurer asked that they be approved. The Members approved the accounts as posted.

The Treasurer said that he has served for four years and would like a shadow as soon as possible. He uses the SAGE bookkeeping software and anyone with Book-keeping experience would not find the position difficult.

6. Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary reported that the Society has 818 current members. During the year up to the summer 76 new members joined. 19 members have passed away. There are now over 80 groups.

More members are paying their subscriptions by Bank Transfer; this is very helpful as it both quicker and easier.

The Membership Secretary thanked the members who had left their Standing Orders for their subscriptions in place.

There has been an increase in the number of members using e-mail. At present 589 out of 651 households with one or more memberships are communicating with the Society via email.

7. Group Liaison Officer's Report

The Group Liaison Officer reported that he had conducted a survey of Group Co-ordinators in order to determine how Groups were coping with the pandemic restrictions on getting together. 70 per cent of Group Co-ordinators had responded. This was very informative.

Although 32 Groups had not been able to meet at all since March many had continued to stay in touch. Groups who regularly meet outdoors continued to do so until the weather made that impossible and then switched to Zoom meetings.

Nine Groups out of 35 responding continued to meet as they had in the past and 18 to 20 Groups have been meeting via Zoom.

All the Group Co-ordinators have done their utmost to keep the Groups going and everyone has been very enthusiastic.

The Groups Liaison Officer thanked the Group Co-ordinators for their work.

8. Speaker Secretary's Report

The Speaker Secretary reported that it had not been able to hold Open Meetings between March and June but since then monthly Open Meetings have been held via Zoom. About 40 members attend although today has 80 attendees.

The next Open Meeting will be on 27 January 2021.

Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster reported that a Facebook group had been set up as a forum for Group Coordinators. Only 15 GCs have signed up. There is a Facebook group for the Science and Technology Group..

9. Election of Officers and Committee Members.

The Chairman announced that he was retiring as Chairman and the Membership Secretary and Secretary were also retiring.

Upon nomination by Paddy Collins and seconding by Lorna Joy and Clive Cowdy, Lila Bogle was elected Chairman of the Society.

Lilia Bogle assumed the chairing of the meeting.

Upon nomination by Lilia Bogle and seconded by Paddy Collins, Dorothy Morgan was elected Secretary.

Upon nomination by Lorna Joy and seconded by Derek Morgan, Ann Abraham was elected Membership Secretary.

The serving Trustees of the Society indicated that they were happy to continue to serve and were re-appointed as such.

The Chairman proposed that Martin Paul, the retiring Chairman, be elected President of the Society. This was seconded by Derek Morgan and Dorothy Morgan. The members elected Martin Paul as President.

The Chairman thanked Clive Cowdy, the immediate past President, for his service and support.

10. Open Forum

The new Chairman congratulated the Members and the Group Co-ordinators for carrying on so successfully during a very difficult year.

She urged members to look at the Third Age Trust winter programme for ideas about potential activities.

She reported that one of the members who had passed away was Dusty Roades (Edward Pankhurst), who had served as Vice Chairman. She expressed her sympathies and condolences to the families who had lost loved ones.

The Chairman appealed to the members to volunteer to serve as shadows for Committee members.

She thanked Jo Taylor and Karen Burton for their work catering at Open Meetings and socials.

The Chairman opened the meeting for questions about the Society and its activities.

A member pointed out that another local U3A society distributes its newsletter electronically and only a few are posted in hard copy.

Pam Tonge said that the Newsletter was invaluable for announcements etc.

Another member, Kathy Filby, said she had never seen the Newsletter and asked to be directed to a copy; she was informed they are available on the Website.

The Chairman asked for ideas with regards to the Newsletter, and asked for expressions of interest in shadowing Committee members. We are the largest group in Buckingham.

Brian Mathews said that he was a new member and had found the Society much friendlier and welcoming than his previous Society. Steve Heywood and Shirley Crabb agreed with his view.

He asked whether the Committee meetings were open to all the members of the Society. The Chairman confirmed that all members are welcome to attend the meetings of the Committee. The Webmaster pointed out that Minutes of all the meetings are posted on the Society's website. Others had already attended Committee meetings.

Two new members present were asked to say hello.

The Chairman asked the new Committee members to say hello on Zoom and they duly introduced themselves.

The Chairman led a discussion of whether to hold a virtual Open Meeting in December. The members decided not to have a December Open Meeting.

The Chairman thanked the retiring and new Committee members. The Christmas meeting is usually a social, which can't be held in present circumstances, so the next meeting will be held online in January.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed.

Charity No. 1177534

Attendees

Total 80 attendees including Committee Members: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Speaker Secretary, Group Liaison Officer, Treasurer, Webmaster.

72 Ordinary Members in attendance.