

MINUTES
OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF
WILMSLOW U3A

Wednesday 22nd September 2021 via Zoom

Present:

Martin Cook (Chairman), Eileen Clayton (Treasurer), Malcom Coward (Deputy Treasurer), Pauline Bushnell (Business Secretary), John Cookson (Webmaster), Beryl Pearce and Mike Redfern (Newsletter Editors) and Peter Highfield, (Committee Member). Also attending were about 18 members of the Wilmslow U3A

Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Dave and Caroline Mangnall, Jane Cocking, Sandra Bostock, Bridget Ferguson and Christina Bland.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all members present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 25th November 2020 were presented, they having previously been circulated to the membership together with the other AGM documents. The acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was proposed by Christine Foreman and seconded by Christine Roberts.

Matters arising

The Chairman stated that, as requested at the 2020 AGM, the accounts for the year ended 2020 had been circulated to all members both by email and by post together with all the other AGM documents and it appeared that they had been safely delivered.

Chairman's report

The Chairman said that the past year had been strange in that he had been unable to meet more than a handful of members and was very sad that he had been unable to chat with members and get to know them better. He was very glad that several groups had been able to meet via Zoom and that now some groups were able to start getting back to face to face meetings. He listed those which had been able to start personal meetings again. He was gratified to see that membership was holding up and that several new members had been recruited. In February 2021 we commenced holding the monthly Wednesday meetings via Zoom and members had been able to listen to talks on a variety of subjects. The talks had been very interesting and he wished to thank Margo Sibbitt for organising all the speakers. He went on to say that he hoped that starting with the October meeting we would be able to resume meetings in the URC hall.

He said that there was another subject which had been taking up quite a lot of time for the Committee recently and that this was consideration of a new draft Constitution which had been formulated by the Trust together with the Charity Commission. At first the Committee was doubtful about adopting it as there is no compulsion to do so, but after giving it a lot more thought they think that on the whole it probably would be a good idea to adopt it since it covers many factors not dealt with in our current constitution. However, it will be considered further and it will then be circulated to the full membership prior to the next AGM to allow everyone to think about it and it will be presented at the next AGM for adoption or not, depending on the decision of the membership. In conclusion, the Chairman thanked Chris Foreman for keeping the Newsletter going and to Beryl Pearce and Mike Redfern for taking it over and producing the first edition in a new and lively format. The Chairman reminded everyone that contributions to the Newsletter were needed now and would be needed in the future. As they had taken on this work there was now a vacancy for the post of Group Coordinator and there were other important posts which must be filled, the most important being the Vice Chairman, who was one of the necessary officers and without whom the U3A would not be functioning legally. He also added that a Social Secretary would be required fairly soon when we were able to provide refreshments at meetings again. Finally he thanked the other members of the Committee for the work they had done and pointed out that the posts of Business Secretary and Treasurer would become vacant in about a year's time since they would have to retire at the AGM in 2023 and replacements were needed hopefully before that time to learn about what the work entailed and be ready to take it on at the 2023 AGM. Those newcomers will be working with a group of lively people and would contribute to the running of a successful U3A.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2021. She said that turnover was down from £30,000 to £12,000 which was due to the lack of activity due to Covid. The assets had increased by £3,800 which arose from the collection of outstanding subscriptions and that nothing much had had to be paid out. It had therefore been decided to fix the subscription for the year at nil. We have paid the Trust about £4,000 and that means the assets will be substantially reduced in the next set of accounts. We had recovered money paid out for all events which did not take place and we have repaid all sums paid to us by members. She said that some restricted funds were being held on behalf of groups by the Treasurer so that the convenors did not have to hold cash for a long period when no activity could take place. Alastair Jones queried the amount of £1500 shown under "Other Income". The Treasurer replied that this was Gift Aid received from the Government for which all present expressed their gratification.

The Treasurer proposed that the accounts should be approved, and this was proposed by Alastair Jones and seconded by John Cookson. The Accounts were approved.

A signed copy of the Accounts is annexed to these Minutes.

Election of the Committee

The Chairman read out the names of the persons standing for election and re-election to the Committee together with the names of the Proposers and Seconders. There were no contested positions and accordingly the members proposed and seconded were elected. They are:

Chairman	Martin Cook
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Treasurer	Eileen Clayton
Deputy Treasurer	Malcolm Coward
Business Secretary	Pauline Bushnell
Membership Secretary	David Mangnall
Webmaster	John Cookson
Groups Co-ordinator	Vacant
Newsletter Editors	Beryl Pearce and Mike Redfern
Speaker Co-ordinator	Margo Sibbitt
Social Secretary	Vacant

Committee members remaining in position, not requiring re-election this year are Peter Highfield and Gillian Slater, Dorothy Fenwick and Kate Forster having resigned.

Any other business

The Chairman brought up the subject of a return of live monthly Wednesday meetings. He said that Peter Highfield had been in discussion with the Manager of the URC halls and it seemed reasonable for us to return to live meetings there under certain conditions. The most important of these was that although it was not mandatory it was preferable for members to wear masks. Chairs would be spaced as far apart as possible to allow for social distancing and windows would have to be open to allow as much ventilation as possible. There was then considerable discussion on all aspects of these restrictions, mainly the question of wearing a mask and the Chairman asked for a show of hands of those who would be prepared to wear a mask. About three-quarters of those present were in favour. Peter Highfield then enlarged on the statement already made by the Chairman. He said that the rules made by the URC were for their members and were not intended to be imposed on organisations renting rooms. Peter Highfield stressed the necessity to be flexible in taking note of the URC rules and that there were ways of making everyone feel comfortable, such as asking members not to occupy chairs which were too close to a member's chosen seat, wearing a mask if the member was comfortable in doing so. Ventilation was very important and members should note that the room might be cooler than usual. Sadly it would not be possible to provide tea, coffee and biscuits as had been done in the past, since social distancing could not be ensured. He concluded by saying that it would be necessary to take slow steps to return gradually to normal.

It was hoped that live Wednesday monthly meetings would resume on 27th October.

Christine Foreman asked what had been decided concerning subscriptions for 2022 and the Treasurer replied that this was a matter which would be discussed at the next meeting of the

Committee and will have to be considered in the light of likely expenses for that year including amounts which have to be paid to the Trust.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and the Committee for its hard work over the previous year with particular thanks to John Cookson for making it possible for us to continue to operate via Zoom.

Chairman.....

Date.....