



Minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting
held at 2 p.m. on Monday 20th May 2019 at
The Sevenoaks Community Centre, Bat and Ball, Sevenoaks

1. Apologies for Absence

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting was quorate. Apologies had been received from 24 members and these were read out.

2. Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting held on Monday 25th June 2018

These minutes had been distributed with the agenda before the meeting. The Chairman asked for confirmation that these minutes were a fair and accurate record of the 2018 meeting. Simon McIntyre proposed and Mike Willsher seconded the motion, and it was unanimously carried by a show of hands.

3. The Trustees' Report

The Trustees' Report had been distributed with the agenda for the meeting. The Chairman referred to the priorities set out by the new Committee in July 2018 which were, in short, to recruit new members, to increase the number of study groups, and to set up teams of members to spread the workload and to ensure succession in key areas. The Trustees' Report had focused on the good progress that has been made in meeting these priorities over the year.

The adoption of the Trustees' Report was proposed by Peter Smith and seconded by Pamela Gilchrist and agreed by the members by a show of hands.

4. The Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts for year ended 31st March 2014; the Approval of the Annual Subscription for the current year.

The Treasurer reported that, after Richard Teare had stepped down as Knole U3A's Treasurer at the end of last summer to take on the far larger role of Treasurer for The Third Age Trust at the National Office, he had become Knole's interim Treasurer for the remainder of the year. He personally thanked Richard for ensuring the accounts were reconciled and balanced before the handover, making the job of producing the year end accounts less of a challenge.

The accounts for last year are shown in a single column compared to the two for the previous year as the Third Age Trust had recommended the closure of separate bank accounts for the Extra Mural Studies and events. The balance of £1147 brought from

2017-18 was transferred to the General Account and the Extra Mural was immediately closed and there was no further activity on this account.

No gift aid income was received in the year but Charities are able to submit claims for the previous three years. Richard Teare was able to confirm from the floor that the gift aid claim had been made so it should be paid into the Knole U3A account shortly. The Treasurer assured members that Gift Aid amounts of £4 reclaimed on each £16 subscription by Knole U3A (as a registered charity for tax purposes) comes back from the Government and not from members' bank accounts.

The Treasurer congratulated those who had set last year's budget as it was very close to the actual receipts and payments as shown in the accounts for the year, with a small surplus for the year. Given this outcome he recommended that Annual Subscriptions remain at £16 for next year, and this was received with a round of applause. Joy Oliver proposed and Richard Teare seconded the proposal that the annual subscription remain at £16 which was unanimously agreed by a show of hands.

Finally the Treasurer informed the members that arrangements were currently being set up by the Committee for renewal payments to be made online through Beacon, Paypal or direct bank transfer. Payment by cheque and cash with a completed renewal form could also be made at this meeting.

5. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The Chairman reminded the membership that their Committee was made up of four officers and six further members, totally ten in all.

Three of the officers, The Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary were elected in June last year for an initial term of two years, so will remain in post this year. A new Treasurer has been found and is standing for his initial two year period at this meeting. The non-officers are required to stand for re-election each year, and Lesley Allum- Jolly, Delma Moore, Christine Walls, Janet Willcox and Sharon Willmore have happily agreed to do so. In addition a new member Harry Reeves is standing as Meetings Co-ordinator to replace Stewart Armstrong who is standing down. All the above persons had been duly nominated and seconded by members and it was agreed to vote for their election as a block. Their election was carried unanimously by a show of hands.

6. Appointment of Independent Examiner

Lionel Parks proposed and Anna McMillan seconded the appointment of Andrew Dunk as Knole U3A's Independent Examiner for 2019-2020.

7. Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked the Committee for their work over a challenging year with many changes that were beyond their control. They had been willing and good-humoured and ever mindful of the real purpose of the U3A – to create an environment where learning and friendship go hand in hand. She paid particular thanks to Lionel Parks who agreed to act as a bridging treasurer from December to April, and to Stewart Armstrong who is leaving the Committee for family reasons for running monthly meetings so smoothly and welcoming speakers to our U3A.

The formal meeting closed at 2.30 and was followed by a reminder about early renewal of membership to allow Handbooks and membership cards to be distributed in good time for the Open Meeting in September. This will be held for at St Nicholas Church in central Sevenoaks, which is to be our meeting venue for the next eighteen months or more, whilst the current Hall is being extended and refurbished.

Members were also updated on the Anniversary Party arrangements to be held on 16th July. Those who had already applied will receive their printed tickets in early June; further places are still available for those who have not yet applied. A request was also made for volunteers to help set up and take down displays and seating before and after the event.

After the business of the afternoon, there was a presentation by Ian Keable.