

TUNBRIDGE WELLS U3A

Minutes of the 25h Annual General Meeting held at the Camden Centre, Tunbridge Wells, Thursday 2 June 2016

1. Welcome and Apologies for Absence

The Chairman, Joy Podbury, welcomed members to the meeting. The meeting was attended by 110 people and therefore quorate. She announced that the newly elected Mayor, David Neve, would be attending that afternoon to give a talk about what he hopes to achieve during his term of office, to meet with ex Chairmen and ex Committee members and to give a toast to the TW U3A 25th Anniversary and to Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday.

The Secretary, Wendy Maher, reported that she had received an apology for absence from Alison Grace who could not attend the meeting following the date change but looked forward to taking over as Vice Chairman. She had also received an apology from Peter Batts, the first Chairman of TW U3A, and his wife as they now had to attend a funeral. Apologies for absence had also been received from Ishbel Bailey, Jan and Bob Holly, Wendy Nice, Susan Brown, Sheila Rout, Colin Kemp, Chid Waller, Jeff and Tricia Perry, Hazel Duncombe, Ray Dafter, Debbie Croll, Mary Pendaries, Lynn Brown, Ann Sangwin, John and Evelien Hurst, Daphne and Trevor Streeter, Linda Andrews, Paul Terry, Vera Brown, Peter Samuel, Bob and Karen Street, Andrea Holt, Sue Bailey and husband, Phil and Rosamunde Scott, Liz and Dick Bell, Mary and Tony Chamberlain, Helen Sanders, Robbie Holmes, Jane Costello, Jean Weatherley, Annette Tranter, Eileen Gall, Alison Turner, Val Waters, Sue Ware, Stephen and Anette Parris, Ann Price, Brian and Jo Bailey, Helen Carpenter, Joan Cowling, Gerti O'Connor, Ron and Alma Burch, Pamela Morris, Pamela and Les Wood, Tricia Gompertz, Audrey Cosans, Lynda Aldred, Jill Weaver, Jean Hamilton, Marion Short, Sheena Carmichael, John Cunliffe, Margaret Hurlock, Fran Bennett, Jill Scott, June Lawrence, Paul and Marion Short, Lionel Cole, Paulette and Andrew Pollock,

2. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting

Copies of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM had been distributed prior to the meeting. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Thelma Huggett and seconded by Janet Lazell. They were unanimously approved by the members present.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman, Joy Podbury, read out her Report, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes and which also appears in the Newsletter.

As the role of Chairman was to be handed over after the meeting, Di Brown, the Vice Chair, stood up and thanked Joy Podbury for all her hard work during her term of office and acknowledged her many achievements, particularly referring to the continuing growth of the association and the new interest groups being formed.

5. Treasurer's Report

The signed accounts had been published in the most recent newsletter and on the website and had also been circulated by email and by post. They were also available at the meeting. The Treasurer, David Scott, gave a presentation using pie charts and tables to highlight important aspects of the accounts as follows:

- Pie charts outlining income over expenditure showed a substantial surplus which must now be addressed. The surplus has arisen from subscriptions due to the growing membership.
- The figures showed how the surplus had grown over the last 2 years and were much higher than the recommended reserves.
- He outlined what action had already been taken and what we were not allowed to do and proposed that to bring the reserves close to the recommended level all existing members be given a year's free subscription and all new members pay at the rate of £8. Members will therefore be required to cancel their payments for the coming year.
- He also explained the change in computing systems both accounting and membership and how we were intending to change to the Beacon System.

He asked if there were any questions. Thelma Huggett pointed out that members would need many reminders to cancel their standing orders. The Treasurer said that there would be many reminders in the newsletters and on the website, at meetings and within groups. Frank Monkton asked whether this would affect the postage on the newsletters and was advised that this would continue to be payable as a donation and the newsletters would still be posted.

6. Proposed Change to Subscriptions

The proposed motion had been circulated as follows:

In order to bring the reserves closer to their recommended level and to celebrate the 25th Anniversary year of the Tunbridge Wells U3A, Subscriptions for the year 2016/17 (commencing on 1st September 2016) will be as follows:

All existing members will receive a free annual subscription

New members shall pay a reduced rate of £8

Subscriptions will return to a maximum rate of £16 per annum as at 1st September 2017

The Chairman asked for this proposal to be agreed. Linda Jolley seconded the proposal and it was agreed unanimously

7. Chairman to

- a) to receive and approve the examined Accounts for the year to 31 March 2016***
- b) to give a vote of thanks to the Independent Examiner***
- c) to appoint the Independent Examiner for 2016-2017***

The Chairman asked for a single vote to cover all three sections. This was agreed and passed unanimously.

8. Election of Officers

There was a requirement for the election of 2 Officers – Chairman and Vice-Chairman. Nominations for these posts were as follows:

For the position of Chairman: Sue Brimlow was proposed by Marilyn Smart and Seconded by Angela Tutin

For the position of Vice Chairman: Alison Grace was proposed by Sheila Branson and seconded by Sue White

These appointments were passed unanimously. The new Chairman came to the top table to be introduced to the members.

9. Vote of thanks to retiring Committee members.

The new Chairman, Sue Brimlow, thanked the outgoing Chairman, Joy Podbury, the Vice Chairman, Di Brown, and the Outings Co-ordinator, Pat Micklewright, for their hard work and contribution to the association and presented them with vouchers.

10. Date of next AGM

The next AGM will be held on 15 June 2017