

## **Minutes of the Farnham u3a AGM held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2024 at 2pm at Farnham Maltings**

Prior to the AGM members that were unable to attend the meeting had been given the opportunity to vote by post or email effectively giving the chair proxy to vote on their behalf. 65 members voted in this way.

The Chair Philip Oliver opened the meeting at 2pm and welcomed those attending.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from committee members Val Atkinson, Annette Kratz and Shree Merriman and from 18 other members.

### **Minutes of the 2023 AGM**

These were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposed by Jane Moberly. Seconded by Cynthia Barratt.

52 votes in favour, none against. Total votes in favour 117

There were no matters arising.

### **Hon. Treasurer's report**

The accounts had been available on our website for some time. Philip Oliver read the Treasurer's report: Another good year, resulting in a profit, mainly due to the increase in number of new members. This surplus is used to bolster up our depleted funds resulting from covid circumstances and to maintain the membership fees at their current value, despite an increase in the cost of living and costs of new venues enabling us to meet our objectives.

The accounts were approved.

Proposed by Pauline Belfield. Seconded by Andrew Morgan.

52 votes in favour, none against. Total votes in favour 117

### **Independent Examiner**

The Chair thanked Glennis Turner for her work as Independent Examiner of our accounts. Glennis has agreed to continue in the role of Independent Examiner for another year. This was agreed unanimously.

Proposed by Jo Watson. Seconded by Sigi Brown.

52 votes in favour, none against. Total votes in favour 117

## **Election of Officers and Committee Members**

The Chair explained that two committee members were standing down following a number of years of service to the committee. Malcolm Ellis has been responsible for Groups and Val Atkinson has been on the committee for the last 8 years, as secretary and other roles. Whilst standing down from the committee she is still involved in the running of the organisation. Philip thanked them for all of their hard work. He also thanked other committee members for everything they do in support of Farnham u3a.

Other existing committee members were willing to stand for committee roles for the upcoming year and no other members offered to stand. The following members were approved unanimously.

### **Officers**

Chair	Philip Oliver
Vice Chair	Jane Moberly
Hon. Secretary	Sally Bowden
Hon. Treasurer	Shree Merriman

### **Other committee members**

Andrew Morgan

Cynthia Barnett

Vivienne Miller

Steve Tilburn

Annette Kratz

Proposed by John Steeds. Seconded by Maria Mitchell.

52 votes in favour, none against. Total votes in favour 117

### **Annual Review**

The Chair shared the Annual Review, which can be accessed through our website.

### **Any Other Business**

Members had been offered the opportunity to pose questions prior to the AGM but no questions were raised in advance.

On the day questions were asked:

Clarification was sought as to why the amount of Gift Aid we are claiming may be an issue and The Chair explained that part of our membership payment could be considered as a benefit in using the rooms at The Maltings.

Membership fees have been kept at the same level this year and an enquiry was raised as to why they had not been increased. It was explained that there was a large rise in fees 3 years ago and when this was done it was on the understanding that fees would not be put up “for a few years” .

There was a request for a return to a printed programme. The Chair explained that we had moved to an online programme for a number of reasons including that a printed programme is out of date as soon as it is printed and that the cost of printing and distributing a programme to our membership was around £5000. The number of members that we have without email addresses is less than 10 from a total membership of over 1400 and many u3a groups no longer provide a printed programme. A copy of the Group meeting dates and contacts is available on the u3a noticeboard. Members asked if a vote could be taken in the room as to whether members wanted to go back to having a printed programme. 36 people were in favour of this and 18 against. The Chair said that the matter would be considered at the next committee meeting.

It was asked if there would be a permanent change from having a Registration Day in September to an Open Day in July. The Chair said that no decision had been made on this yet.

Clarification was sought as to whether it was possible to pay for membership by cheque rather than paying online. It was explained that this is possible but the database system does not generate an automatic confirmation of payment or send the member a copy of their membership card so online payments are preferred.

The AGM was closed at 2:35pm