

NORTH COTSWOLD U3A
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM DIGITAL PLATFORM
ON THURSDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2020 AT 2.00 PM

Present: Chris Selby (Chairman), Colin Sagar (Vice Chairman), Eric Watts (Treasurer), Alun Davies (Business Secretary) John Bissett (Membership Secretary), Sharon Thackeray (Group Coordinator), Peter Grant, Judy Thompson, Barbara Matthias (Minutes Secretary), and 40 members.

Apologies: Sue Lindsay (Welfare Officer), John Busbridge, Mr & Mrs McHugh, Christine Lucas, Mr & Mrs Lumsden, Margaret Millberry, Ann Pitcher, Penny Valender

WELCOMING ADDRESS

Chris Selby opened the meeting by welcoming those attending for their fantastic response, which was very much appreciated. Holding the AGM via ZOOM was a new venture from our standard face-to-face meeting and presented a learning curve for us all. 49 people logged in which meant we had a quorum. 22 ballot papers had been received, of which 12 were in favour of the motions; 10 members had abstained; 10 paper votes had also been received, all in favour of the motions. Chair thanked Colin Sagar and Paul Kirby for acting as co-hosts. Apologies were expressed to Sharon Thackeray and Judy Thompson (who joined the committee after the AGM) for inadvertently not including their names on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTS OF AGM HELD ON 10TH OCTOBER 2019

The minutes of the meeting, having been distributed, were approved by a show of hands.

MATTERS ARISING

Keith Horden had enquired about holding a Group Leaders/New Members meeting. The committee had agreed and were in the process of organising an event. However, because of COVID-19, it had been put on hold, but was still on the agenda when circumstances permit.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- Growth in membership had continued, thanks to the efforts of Alun Davies for his enhanced local advertising and John Bissett.
- Your committee has worked hard to ensure continuity of the NCU3A during this unprecedented time, fully conscious of the fact that we have to work within Government and National Office guidelines. It is unlikely that we will be meeting in large groups until well into next year. We are grateful to those groups who have managed to keep some activities going, either through ZOOM meetings or meeting in small groups.
- Covid-19 is going to impact our membership numbers and finances, and whilst our bank accounts are relatively healthy, we are conscious that National Office will be increasing our capitalisation fees in the future. This will affect our reserves and will require us to consider for our 2020/21 subscriptions.
- Our Treasurer, Eric Watts, has continued to manage our finances with his usual vigilance, in particular, HMRC for our charitable entitlements, for which we are very grateful.
- We managed to invest in desperately needed new equipment, namely a new laptop and DVD player with associated accessories.
- Our programme of events for the year and social activities were severely curtailed. However, before lockdown, we managed to stage a theatrical play 'Love Letters', which was well

attended and received. It was hoped to repeat such an event in the future.

- A Quiz Day with refreshments, provided by Hilary Thornburgh and a group of ladies, was again very successful and thanks also to Roger Thornburgh for hosting the event, and Keith Horden for providing some of the questions.
- Unfortunately, our Summer Soirée and Summer Outing had to be cancelled, and also several holidays planned by our focus groups also had to be postponed/cancelled.
- Thanks are due to Marilyn Watts and Joan Rees for organising our Open Meetings. We are currently looking at the feasibility of running some of our meetings via ZOOM.
- It has been a difficult time for both our committee and members and hope we have demonstrated our commitment in keeping our U3A going. Being part of the U3A is as much about social contact and meeting new friends; our aim is to try and keep this ethos going for the future.
- A 'thank you' to Judy Thompson who was co-opted onto the committee after last year's AGM, together with Paul Kirby, group leader of the Digital Photographic Group, both of whom will be great assets to our organisation.
- Several key committee Trustees were due to step down this year, including myself, the Vice Chairman, Colin Sagar and our Treasurer, Eric Watts, under the rules of our constitution. However, due to Covid-19 and under guidance with National Office, we can, if duly elected, stay on for another year after which we must step down. I am pleased to say that those members affected including those non-exec members, have agreed to stay, subject to your approval.
- In view of this, we do need to recruit new committee members as replacements need to be found, otherwise, our U3A existence is threatened. Please search your consciences and offer your services; you will be making an important contribution to both our organisation and the community in general. You will be eased in gently with plenty of help at hand.
- Finally, a big 'thank you' to all the committee members for their hard work and dedication shown to me and the NCU3A over these difficult times.

TREASURER'S REPORT

A copy of the Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st August 2020, which had been approved by Kevin Beasley (our independent auditor) was presented. This showed a balance of £4,884.04 in our HSBC account, and £1,528.48 in the CCLA deposit account.

Eric mentioned that in accordance with our constitution, officers were elected for a period of three years, although the tenure for the treasurer is five years. However, he was happy to stay on for the present, but asked if any member wished to take over, he would be happy to provide all the training required.

There being no questions, the Keith Horden proposed that the Accounts be adopted and seconded by Peter Grant.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

John Bissett reported that we had 419 members as at the end of our financial year.

Over the last year, we have lost 21 members. Thanks for Alun Davies' advertising programme, we had recruited 26 new members at the start of 2020.

To date, 233 members have renewed their membership for the current year, plus the 26 members who joined just before lock-down and were not required to pay subscriptions. This leaves some 140 members still to renew.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Chris Selby had sought advice from National Office regarding the ongoing tenure of the executive committee and non-executive committee members and had been assured that they could be re-elected for a further 12 months, as long as approval was given by the membership.

To this end, re-appointment of the executive committee members, Chris Selby, Colin Sagar, Eric Watts and Alun Davies and the Non-executive members were proposed by Barbara Horden and seconded by Diana Lucas

Judy Thompson was proposed by Diana Lucas and seconded by Rosemary McClaren
Paul Kirby was proposed by Keith Horden and seconded by Shirley Sagar

Chris expressed his thanks for members' vote of confidence.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Marilyn Watts asked for members' views on holding our open meetings by ZOOM where appropriate. Chris responded that the subject had been under discussion by the committee and research was being carried out. However, it was pointed out that speakers had to be paid and holding meetings via ZOOM meant we did not generate any revenue. Barbara Horden suggested that perhaps a 'donation' of £3 or £4 per member to join the meeting for a limited number of attendees, might be worth pursuing. Chris said this matter would be discussed at our next committee meeting. Eric Watts, who had been encouraged by the success of using the ZOOM facility, suggested holding a quiz.

DATE OF NEXT AGM

Thursday, 14th October 2021

The meeting was adjourned at 2.45 pm

Signed
Chris Selby, Chairman

Date.....