

Street & Glastonbury U3A
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 5th May 2016
Glastonbury Town Hall 10 a.m.

The Chairman (Stephen Wright) welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. There were 77 members with 31 apologies.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting:

The minutes of the AGM held on 16th April 2015, having already been circulated, were taken as a true record.

Proposed: Margaret Sherborne

Seconded: Carol Soulsby

The motion was carried.

Chairman's Report:

Stephen stated that there were now 468 members an increase of 14% on last year.

He introduced Andy Pickford as the co-opted Treasurer who took over from Vaughan Williams due to his continued ill health. We now have a clearer view of individual group costs which is a key management tool for the committee. He also mentioned co-opted committee member Andrew Boatswain who has improved the coverage of our activities in local publications and on the website. Elaine Robertson stands down after being Secretary for 3 years and he thanked her for her contribution.

He went on to say, that increasing membership brings its own challenges. We need to provide sufficient groups for the growing membership, new interest groups to broaden the offering and to provide interesting trips and speakers and a small special events committee working party has been organised to deal with this.

We now have a facebook page which is growing its membership steadily. It is an easy and quick means of communicating news and events and he encourages everyone to become a member.

We understand that we have a clear responsibility to look after U3A members and where possible, the community as a whole and we will constantly strive to achieve this. We are currently looking at the safety and accessibility of venues and will continue to do our best to support vulnerable members. Last year we supported the application by Street Parish Council for a grant to refurbish Merriman Park.

It has been a very good year for the S&G U3A and the future looks very bright.

Financial Report:

Andy Pickford stated that as he had taken over from Vaughan very late in the financial year – 31st March 2016 – it left him a lot of work to arrange the accounts to be easily understood. Having done this and presented it to the committee, they have been signed off by Zeyla Alarcon. There are 40-45 different activities running in the Autumn and Spring terms and 10/12 in the summer term, using 20 venues throughout the area. Income is up from last year – there were more members. Expenditure was also up which was from increased room hire costs and the payment made to the Trust. Although this did not go up per person, there is an increase due to the increase in members. This left us with profit slightly down on last year

but there is no need for any membership increases for the year 2016/2017. We have spent some of the remaining lottery grant this year for group benefits still leaving us a balance of £289.66.

The accounts were accepted.

Proposed: Sue Thurgood
Seconded: Audrey Crowe
The motion was carried.

Election of Committee:

Three nominees were received.

Andy Pickford
Proposed: Stephen Wright
Seconded: P.L.M. Thompson
Motion was carried

Helen Hickman
Proposed: Cynthia Rayes
Seconded: Elaine Robertson
Motion was carried.

Andrew Boatswain
Proposed: N. Aland
Seconded: S. A King
Motion was carried.

The remainder of the committee were happy to stand again and they were voted for en-block.

Proposal to change Constitution 2.1 Revision of Object:

Elaine read out relevant paragraph in the S&G U3A Constitution as it stands now and read the proposed change suggested by the Charity Commission.

The proposed change to the constitution was carried and National Office will be informed of this.

Funding for Summer Groups:

Up to and including 2016 summer groups have been self funded. Stephen proposed that as from summer 2017 that the funding for this term be the same as for the winter and spring terms. Summer groups are becoming more prevalent and it now seems prudent that the same funding criteria should apply to all U3A groups to enable more diversity in the summer. They would, as now, only operate with committee approval.

Tony Martin felt that groups should not just do their own thing and that their costs be controlled. Andy stated that we now have the relevant information to enable the committee to make informed decisions about each group's costs. Carol Soulsby requested that lists of venue costs be sent to each Group Leader so that they knew their groups' costs. Stephen mentioned that this would be discussed at the Group Leaders meeting.

After discussion it was decided that it should be run for 1 year to see how it works and reviewed at the next AGM.

It was proposed that the funding for the summer groups should be the same as the winter and spring groups and should be tried for 1 year and reviewed at the next AGM.

The motion was carried.

News from the Groups:

We continue to look for new interest groups and had 6 new groups last year. Creative Writing, Body Calm, Chinese Brush Painting, Astronomy, Badminton and Mixed Choir. We now have a new Boules group starting on 11th May at Walton Village Hall and a Tai Chi taster session on 24th May.

Quilting for pleasure have produced a fox quilt to raffle for Save The Children Fun. There will be an Arts group exhibition on 17th May. Potential groups for 2016/17 could be Tai Chi, Current Affairs, Wine Appreciation, Safe Surfing (Internet), Croquet, Snooker/Pool and Beginners Water Colour. The winter programme is still being finalised but we hope that there will be something in it for everyone.

Special Events:

The year has had ups and downs for events and talks. Last years Xmas Party was a great success with over 100 members attending. In January James Heappey MP gave a talk at Walton Village Hall and this was well attended.

It is the last chance to book for Mapperton House trip on 7th June. On 17th May Pauline Kidner is to give a talk at Walton Village Hall followed by Maya Carrington – 2 pm start. Friday 13th May is the regional U3A quiz held at Yeovil. Pat Mead has organised a team to represent S&G.

There will be an effort to advertise trips for next year at enrolment, with sign up forms, as they have not been well supported. It was suggested that we could advertise to other groups in the area to boost figures.

Future dates:

Group Leaders meeting 16th June 2016, Enrolment 18th August 2016, Xmas Party 15th December 2016. The start of term will be 19th September.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 10.45 am.