

MINUTES of the Street & Glastonbury U3A AGM held via Zoom on Thursday 20 August at 10am.

There being no quorum, as the previous meeting, the AGM was postponed for 15 minutes when those present formed the quorum. A list of those present is attached.

1. Apologies were received from Wendy Howiantz, Peter Griffiths, Anne Murch, Heather and Martin Kennard.
2. Minutes of the previous AGM held on 23 May, 2019. The Minutes, which had been posted on the website, were agreed and signed by the Chairman, Mike Ellingham.
3. Financial Report: This had been displayed on the website and was not read out. Julie Hillman had submitted 2 questions regarding the accounts:
  1. The accounts under consideration are very nearly a year old. Please can you tell us what is the current situation. In particular what is the level of our reserve in £ and in % (or months) of operating costs?
  2. Also the time lag between end of period and date of AGM (even in normal circumstances) means it is "old news" we have in front of us (by end Apr/early May we already have 2 full terms of more recent activity behind us) – it would seem sense to me to move the date of the AGM nearer to the year end – maybe in Sep or Oct it could fit into the monthly coffee morning slot?

Andy replied by email:

1. For this financial year, ending 31 Aug 2020, we have a surplus of £2833, against a total Expenditure of £14119. The surplus is about 20% of Expenditure. There are no more invoices due to be paid in this period. In addition we have a deposit account holding £6626.00
2. We are under strict rules of when the AGM can be held based on the date of the last one. Helen can give you the exact details. As we have had to delay this years AGM, it does give us flexibility as to when we hold the next one. It could certainly be held in Sep/Oct 2021. However, any accounts reported on would be provisional - not all invoices will have come in, and the accounts certainly will not have been checked by our independent accountant by that time. The final accounts would probably not be ready in time for the November Newsletter.

Andy added that at the moment we pay £3.50 of the £10.00 membership fee to U3A and in 2022 this will increase to £4.00. The cost of the magazine, which comes from the Head Office, went up to £3.10 per person last April. We have to consider raising the membership fee but there is no need to do this at the moment.

Julie said that we are a long way from being insolvent and that the reserves have been accumulating since she became a member some 10 years ago. Andy replied that 24 groups are subsidised because they do not make enough money from their membership. Some are held in venues and groups like Line Dancing and Table Tennis are generating a lot more money than we have to pay for hiring the venue. There are also a lot of groups held in people's homes and it is these groups that are allowing us to remain viable.

Philippa Chapman said that some groups may have equipment that might need replacing. Andy said that we do get requests for equipment and we haven't yet turned down any such request. We do have laptops and other equipment that Group Leaders can use. The Town Hall has their own projector and screen so we don't need to use our own when meeting there.

Phillippa added that St Benedict's Church has a projector, screen and sound system and is available for hire when restrictions are lifted.

Don Robertson proposed accepting the accounts. This was seconded by Paul Vernoum. All present were in favour of this.

5. Groups Co-Ordinator's Report: The report had been posted on the website and was not read out. There were no questions on the report to be answered.
6. Election of Officers/Committee Members: Andrew Boatswain has stepped down as Publicity Officer and Carole Fox has taken up that position. Julie Hillman asked for a list of committee members and Mike read this out. He noted those positions which are vacant and also that Gaynor has left the committee since his report had been posted online. The Committee was proposed en masse by Alan Withers and seconded by Phillippa Chapman.

We do need a Venues Booking Secretary as we are depending on someone to take over from Carole. We now have an online calendar that we use for bookings. This is an important job and we need someone for the position. Andy said he was going to retire at next year's AGM so we will also need a Treasurer.

Elaine suggested putting a job description on the website. Carole thought that job descriptions make the job seem more onerous than it actually is. Instead, information on positions to be filled will be put on the website.

7. Future Arrangements: Any future arrangements depend on the virus and there isn't much we can do until things get a little better. We hope that more venues are becoming covid compliant. We can start to see what we can do within government guidelines. Whether it is worth us hiring a venue if only about 5 people join a group is something to think about. Andy said that government advice is still that over 70s stay at home and remain aware of meeting in large groups. We have to make sure that any venues we do use are deemed covid-secure according to government and TAT guidelines.

Iris said that West Pennard Village Hall will soon open but have to open windows, doors and blinds to allow air to flow through the building. She said that this is fine in the summer but in the winter this obviously presents a problem.

Alan Withers said that from 25 August he will be using Walton Village Hall for Badminton using the Badminton Association's risk assessment. He will let people know how this goes.

Ray Goodby said that people using village halls have to wear face masks but people doing some exercises, eg yoga, are exempt.

Mussetta Lench said that Compton Dundon Village Hall is opening from September. They have a quilting group but if they have to be socially distant and wear face masks it won't be as sociable as usual.

Helen made everyone aware that if we don't follow TAT guidelines on meeting during the pandemic then TAT's public liability insurance, which we are covered by, is null and void.

Mike said that we will continue to monitor the situation and keep everyone up to date with the latest news.

8. Any Other Business: Andy said that we are trialling an online membership form on the website. It doesn't matter if you have already joined for the next year, we want to test the system to see if it is viable and he asked everyone to try out the form.

Julie thanked the Committee for continuing to work in these difficult times and Pat Mead added her thanks.

Mike thanked everyone for joining us on Zoom and said that hopefully next year we will have an AGM where we will get together in Glastonbury Town Hall as usual.

The meeting ended at 10.46am.

Present:

Mike Ellingham  
Andy Pickford  
Brenda Webber  
Don Robertson  
Wilton Willis  
Ray Goodby  
Paul Vernoum  
Cynthia Rayes  
Pat Thompson  
Carole Fox  
Brian Low  
Sue Withers  
Alan Lench  
Norman Rayes  
Brenda Stradling  
Julia Adams  
Jim Sandford

Helen Hickman  
Stephen Wright  
Elaine Robertson  
Pat Mead  
Tony Martin  
Iris Goodby  
David Brunt  
Val Sandford  
Phillips Chapman  
Martin Fox  
Margaret Morris  
Mussetta Lench  
Julie Hillman  
Kates Stokes  
Jessie Henderson  
Malcolm Allan