

**Minutes of the Tiverton U3A Annual General Meeting held at 10:30 am on 23rd March 2023**

Copies of the Agenda, previous year Minutes, Financial Report and Committee Nominations had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

Mr Tony Lowe took the Chair.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Chairman welcomed any new members who had joined in the last year.

**Apologies**

Elizabeth Wales, Janet & Syd Howell, Celia and Stewart Hicks, Sally McDonnell, Elisabeth Piecha, Ivan and Sue Godfrey, Tim Todd, Terry Dapp, Mike & Helen Phillips, Trish James,

Jenny Day, Joan Chaplin, Anne Price, James Cook, Phil Akers, Kim Wootten, Patricia Hughes, Andrea & Chris Bunn, Patricia Robertson, Sue Roads, Lynda Bawden, Gordon Ball, Linda Welden, Anne Donnelly, Gill Sharland, Sue & Mike Barlow, Mitch Bowers, Margaret & Trevor Ellmore.

1. **Minutes of the AGM 2021**

Taken as read.

Adoption of the Minutes was proposed by Wendy Bond, seconded by Irene Butler, agreed, and duly signed.

1. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising not already covered in the agenda.

1. **Chairman’s Report**

The Chairman read his report the main points from which were:

Unlike the previous 2 years, the last 12 months have been fairly normal. Following on from the trials of lockdown and increasingly unreliable hotel arrangements, we’ve now settled into a regular routine here at Moorhayes. Despite the fact that it requires quite a bit of DIY effort to make it work, I feel things have turned out pretty well and the future looks bright.

As at the end of 2022 our bank balance stood at £7,681, which is a healthy sum by any account but significantly down on the previous year’s figure. This is mainly due to the fact that we took the decision to pay back some of the excessive cash reserves we’d accumulated in previous years by providing free entry to monthly meetings. Other options were considered but we felt this was the fairest and most flexible way of doing it. I should warn you that although it won’t be my decision, I think it’s highly likely that this policy of free entry may well be reviewed in the near future.

Our membership dropped slightly during the year to 370 but we still maintain 25 active groups. Bearing in mind the fall in national membership of nearly 20% since pre-pandemic times and some healthy competition in local quarters, we’ve done pretty well. We are still the largest of the 3 local u3a groups, although interestingly, we all have a similar number of special interest groups. I note that whilst there's some overlap between these SI groups, there’s also a significant complementary effect, which means that if we don’t do it, somebody else does or vice versa. From a consumers point of view this offers quite a really wide choice.

Today marks the end of my 3 year stint as Chairman, we survived Covid and managed to do some creative things on the way, such as setting up a new, much improved website (many thanks to JOC for his hard work), we helped the Tiverton Tree Team plant some more trees and we formed a close link with BB u3a in NZ. There have also been some personal highlights in which I’ve had close involvement but not necessarily done all the hard work. In particular, visits to Lundy, visits to the largest onshore windfarm in England, a birdwatching cruise on the River Exe and my personal favourite – the 3 peaks challenge. So there are plenty of good things to look back on.

Many thanks to all the Committee Members for doing your jobs so well and supporting me during the last 3 years. I must also mention Roger for his tireless efforts to video our meetings.

Despite my frequent grumbles, it’s been a privilege to serve as your chairman and I wish you every success in the future.

There being no questions adoption of the Report was proposed by Angie Cheshire, seconded by Ian Kimber, and **Agreed.**

Nigel Blandford proposed a vote of thanks to Tony who has worked tirelessly for the benefit of the all members over the past 3 years was seconded by Annie Foot and unanimously supported by all members present. **Agreed**.

1. **Treasurer’s Report & Adoption of Accounts**

The financial health of the Tiverton U3A continues to be particularly good with a 2022 end of year balance of £7,681compared with £ 9,590 at the end of last year.

Adoption of the Accounts & Report was proposed by Annie Foot, seconded by Nigel Blandford, and **Agreed.**

1. **Examination of Accounts**

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Mr Tony Clarke who examined and signed the 2022 Accounts as correct was seconded by Sue Robbins and **Agreed**.

1. **Election of Officers and Committee**

A list of Committee Nominations was circulated to all members prior to the meeting. There had been no other nominations from members for Officers or Committee members

and therefore, the new committee (detailed below) was re-elected ‘on block’ by a show of hands.

Chair : Robin Mayes

Vice Chair & Newsletter Editor: Nigel Blandford

Treasurer: Sue Robbins

Secretary: Irene Butler

Membership Secretary: Annie Foot

Speaker Secretary & Technical Officer: Fergus McGilp

Webmaster: John O’Connor

Social Media: Angie Cheshire

General Member Ivan Godfrey

1. **Motions by Members**

None were received.

1. **Any Other Business**

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 10:56

Agreed as a true record: Signed …………………………………. Date …………………