

## **MINUTES OF THE EPSOM & EWELL U3A AGM**

**Monday 2nd October 2023 at 10.30am - Bourne Hall, Ewell**

### **Welcome**

The Chairman, Tony Skelton, opened the meeting at 10.30am, welcoming all members to the 2023 AGM, which he followed with a safety briefing.

Attendance was high, with 157 members joining us at Bourne Hall this year.

The Chairman then reminded members that, following on from the 2022 AGM there was a members Code of Conduct whereby all members are expected to treat each other with dignity and respect.

Following a request from a member, Tony Skelton introduced all the Committee members and thanked them for their work this past year. He then went on to thank the RUGS team, Jill Ryan for arranging the theatre only events, Clive Hargreaves for his work on arranging the monthly talks and the Social Committee.

### **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from several members for various reasons.

### **Voting Results**

Voting papers had been posted on the Epsom & Ewell u3a website again this year for members to complete online, and AGM packs had been posted to those members not on the Internet. The results of the voting will remain on our website for the next 3 months.

Total votes cast: 309 out of 1091 members, ensuring our AGM was quorate. The breakdown of the voting is as follows:

Online: 306

Postal: 3

Online invalidated votes: 1

Duplicate votes removed from total: 6

### **To adopt the minutes of the AGM held on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

The minutes from the 2022 AGM were posted on our website prior to the 2023 AGM to allow members to read and vote accordingly. Votes cast as follows:

For: 299    Against: 2    Abstentions: 8

## **Trustees Annual Report and Accounts for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023**

All reports had been posted on the Epsom & Ewell u3a website prior to the AGM and votes cast as follows:

For: 284 Against: 13 Abstentions: 12

## **To adopt the Chairman's Annual Report for 2023**

Votes cast as follows:

For: 300 Against: 2 Abstentions: 7

## **Election of Officers**

This year we are fortunate to have two members volunteering to join the Committee. These positions have been previously posted and voted for on the website, therefore the members have been duly elected. Votes cast as follows:

Libby Curzon – Group Co-ordinator (1)

For: 300 Against: 0 Abstentions: 9

Paul Lander – Vice Chairman

For: 296 Against: 1 Abstentions: 12

Our Independent Examiner has volunteered his services for another year and the results of the voting are as follows:

Graham Penman – Independent Examiner

For: 297 Against: 2 Abstentions: 10

Both our Membership Secretary, Peta Hargreaves and our Chairman, Tony Skelton have offered to continue in their roles for a further year, after which the positions will be up for re-election. The results are as follows:

Peta Hargreaves – Membership Secretary

For: 308 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

Tony Skelton – Chairman

For: 294 Against: 6 Abstentions: 9

Our thanks to all these members volunteering their services to support our U3a.

The Committee now stands at 11no. members.

## **Third Age Matters magazine**

This year members were asked whether they still wished to receive the magazine. Results are as follows:

Yes: 254 No: 55 (these members will now be removed from the distribution list)

## **A.O.B**

The Chairman requested that any question, which had already been answered via the website, should not be raised again. He then mentioned that all questions and comments previously submitted, together with the corresponding answers, had been published on the website. Every question had been answered fully and the results will remain on the website for 3 months from the date of the AGM.

Results as follows:

Number of categories. Total: 6

Number of questions and comments. Total: 22

Number of answers given. Total: 22

The Chairman explained that this past year had been a difficult one for the Executive Committee and thanked those members who had voiced their support. He then went on to clarify the questions raised.

### 1. Online Voting

Two members had questioned online voting and had made their feelings known to the Committee, saying members would prefer not to vote online.

The Chairman answered this by saying that the high number of online votes received this year, shows emphatically that many members are comfortable with online voting.

### 2. Bank Balance

A question had been raised as to why, when the bank balance was much in credit, the money couldn't be made available for the members' benefit.

The Chairman stated the Treasurer had provided a detailed financial report, which had been available on the website since 22<sup>nd</sup> September and suggested that any member querying the bank balance should read the report in full to obtain a greater understanding of our U3a finances.

### 3. Third Age Trust costs

A question was raised regarding the increase costs to the Third Age Trust.

The Chairman explained that this increase was due to the late receipt of an invoice from the Trust for the TAM magazine. The Chairman then explained the reason why some members were asked to re-vote on the revised Financial Statement, which was due to the 2022 financial year ending on a Sunday.

### 4. Members Money

A question was raised about members' money and what would happen to it, should our U3a be dissolved.

The Chairman explained that funds held by our U3a were not members' money and no reference was made to members in the dissolution process, which is stated in our Constitution section 17.

The Chairman then went on to clarify what the annual membership fee covered and confirmed that the Committee do not provide cash funds to any Groups.

One event per year, which is open to all members, is subsidised from the social surplus fund.

#### 5. Social Events

A comment on the Q and A page stated that we now use a commercial company to organise our social events.

The Chairman explained we use Magic Moments, who were recommended by members, to provide packaged theatre trips. These trips are shared with MM's own customers in order for the coach to be filled. The Treasurer and the Social Committee liaise with the owner of Magic Moments, to ensure these trips run smoothly. The Chairman requested that this rumour should be disregarded.

All other social events are arranged by our social committee.

A couple of issues were raised by a member at the AGM and the Chairman responded accordingly.

#### 6. Voting at the AGM

The member queried why no voting was permitted at the AGM.

The Chairman explained that we need to be inclusive and allow those members who could not attend the AGM to have their vote. Therefore, voting is carried out online or via a postal vote prior to the AGM, which allows for the results to be published beforehand.

#### 7. Committee Members

The member requested that Committee Members should stand up and give a brief account of themselves and explain what experience they bring to the U3a.

The Chairman answered that it was difficult to recruit new members to the Committee and asking them to provide this information would potentially deter people from volunteering. This year those members due for election had been asked to write a few words about themselves, which had been included on the voting form.

A member then stood up and raised a vote of confidence in the Committee, where the members present showed their appreciation.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.00am and advised that the AGM minutes would be available for viewing on the website.

The meeting was followed by the monthly presentation *Not in Front of the Audience – Censorship on the British Stage*, ably delivered by Malcolm Jones, who proved an excellent speaker.