

SHEFFIELD U3A

Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting held on 18 May 2016 at the Central United Reform Church, Sheffield

Present: around 132 members, with Samina Aslam in the Chair.

Apologies for absence: Clare & Rati Chiba, Richard Cooper, Barry & Pamela De Roeck, John Evans, Sharon Jennings, Chris Jones, Peter Jones, Sue Morton, Gillian Nottingham, Peter Pond, Barbara & John Robertshaw, Pat Roddis, Pamela Sandford, Derek & Maureen Shipley, Ann Ward, George & Val Wiley.

1. Minutes of the 29th AGM

The Minutes of the AGM held on 6 May 2015 (previously circulated) were agreed as a correct record. Proposed Margaret Bullivant, seconded Stephanie Dixon.

2. Chairman's Annual Report

The Annual Report had appeared in the April *Links* and on the website.

3. Treasurer's Report

The Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2015 had been circulated to members via the April issue of *Links*. CFC explained that from the membership fee of £10, the per capita payment to the national U3A was £3. The accounts were soundly based, and there was a small surplus last year. The money in the bank included the subscriptions for 2016.

A question was asked about the large bank balance, and the fact that a request from the Table Tennis Group for money for equipment had been declined. CFC said usually Groups were expected to be self-financing, and the EC through Pat Ryan had suggested this to the Table Tennis Group, but had received no response. CFC gave the Croquet Group as an example of a self-financing group which had raised approximately £4,000 to meet their needs. If they cannot raise the money themselves, they could make another request.

CFC mentioned that the form of the Independent Examiner's Report was laid down by the Charity Commission.

Regarding the Lease for Room 50 in the Victoria Hall, a member questioned the cost of the rental, as only a small amount was recouped for the Group hire of the room. CFC pointed out that usage had improved during the current year, and another Group would be using it from August. The room was also used for storage and Committee meetings.

A member asked what the money in the bank account was for. CFC explained that a reserve as needed for running expenses, but that membership had increased quicker than inflation. He said if anyone had ideas for using some of the surplus they should let the Secretary know, and it could go on the EC agenda. The approval of the Accounts and the Independent Examiner's report was proposed by Alan Simmonds and seconded by Jean Stephenson, and agreed by the majority.

4. **Constitution**

Copies of the present Constitution and the proposed new one were on the website, together with explanatory notes, and hard copies were also available from the Secretary, as advised in the April edition of *Links*. John Lees reminded members that the matter had been discussed at the previous AGM. It was subsequently discovered that the Third Age Trust was in negotiation with the Charity Commission for a model template for all the U3As. After investigation by the EC, the proposed new constitution based upon TAT's model Constitution was considered a suitable alternative.

JL highlighted a key difference between the old and the proposed constitutions in Paragraph 7 regarding the election of EC members and their terms of office and reiterated what had been said in the explanatory notes on this topic.

He then went on to say that the EC recommended that the new Constitution should be approved.

In response to questions, the following matters were confirmed:

- If an EC member resigned during the year, and if there was a need, the EC could still co-opt from the SU3A membership to get help.
- The Trustees are the EC members.

The acceptance of the revised Constitution was proposed by Vera Dyer and seconded by Stefan West. This was approved by more than two thirds of the voting members present.

5. **Elections to the Committee**

Nominations had been received from four candidates:

Chris Jones

Proposed by Chris Cave and seconded by Jenny Emby

Barbara Lowe Proposed by Sabin Parsonage and seconded by Judy Bizley

Wendy Woodhouse Proposed by Monica Stagg and seconded by Christine Gover

Richard Cooper Proposed by Clare Chiba and seconded by Camilla Jordan

Chris Jones and Richard Cooper were introduced in their absence, Wendy Woodhouse and Barbara Lowe introduced themselves.

The four nominees were individually elected unanimously.

6. Independent Examiner

Robert Mellor was leaving after 4 years, and the Chair thanked him for his hard work. Gillian Nottingham was accepted by the meeting as the new Independent Examiner.

7. Any other business

No matters had been formally notified in advance, and none were brought up at the meeting.