

Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting of the Palmers Green and Southgate u3a

This meeting was held on Wednesday 27 October 2023 at 2.30 pm at the Southgate Methodist Church.

The Agenda, Minutes of 2022 AGM, Treasurer's Report and Accounts and the Chair's' Report were emailed to members via Beacon and posted to members without an email address on 11th September 2023.

1. Apologies for Absence

The Chair, Val Girling, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. Some 15 apologies had been received, so she decided not to read them all out, but they could be divulged if required.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the AGM 2022

The Minutes were considered approved by a unanimous show of hands by the 72 members present, with no objections.

3. Chair's Report

Highlighting her key points, the Chair said that the figure of 438 members on the 11th September, as quoted in the Report, had grown to 448 in a week and membership had increased by 100 since last October. One of the main aims of the U3A is to raise the profile of the 50+ age group in the community. Members do not have to be retired, simply not in full-time work, and there are no age limits. During the lockdowns many people had become isolated and less willing to go out and mix, so it is vital that we pass the message on about PG&Su3a and what it can provide for its members.

In January 2023 we transitioned to Beacon software for our membership database. This has made it easier for Convenors to manage their groups and for general communication with members, which is so important. Members are all urged to read the Bulletins, which are sent out by email some ten days before the monthly meeting and by text version, which is posted to those without an email address. There will be a Quiz Night on 7th October, a members' Christmas lunch on 14th December and a Barn Dance on 3rd December. 96 people have signed up for the Quiz, which is now full.

We have said good-bye to our Magazine Co-editor and Vice-Chair, Robin Charnley, who has left the Committee after four years, so we are now looking for somebody to work with Jennie Somerville, the other Co-editor, in editing and producing the magazine, or two new volunteers to take it over from Robin and Jennie. All information about volunteering for that, or for any other means of contributing to PG&Su3a, can be found in the monthly Bulletin. The Chair expressed her thanks to the Executive Committee, the interest group Convenors, the Outreach Team that organises events like the Barn Dance, and the band of HEROES who can be called upon to help in various ways, such as with the teas at monthly meetings and posting the quarterly magazine.

4. Treasurer's Report and Motion to adopt the Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2023

Printed copies of the financial statements and accounts were emailed and posted to members on 11 September 2023. The Treasurer had sent his apologies, being away on holiday, so any questions would have to be addressed to him by email.

The Chair put to the meeting the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and Accounts. The proposal to adopt the motion was made by Pam McCathey and seconded by Mary Palmer. There were no objections or abstentions and the Accounts were approved and adopted by a show of hands.

5. Election of Officers and other Committee Members

10% of total members needed for a quorum was exceeded by the attendance of 72. There was no Zoom facility this year.

Nomination forms had gone out to all members by email and by post on 1 August. The Secretary had received a nomination for the three Officers and all the other existing members of the Executive Committee, with the exception of the Webmaster, Pat Bleach, who would be co-opted for a second year. Tony MacNamara was nominated as a new EC member.

The Chair introduced the Officers. A motion to re-elect them was proposed by Tony MacNamara and seconded by Jane Eaton.

Chair: Val Girling
Secretary: Coral Datta
Treasurer: Howard Strudwick

The Chair also introduced EC members:

Frances Halliday
Sarah Brandi
Bob Holford
Caroline Davies
Jennifer Somerville
Tony MacNamara
Yvonne Marr
Pat Bleach (co-opted)

The motion to elect them en bloc was also carried by a show of hands.

6. Any Other Business

The chair expressed thanks to the out-going magazine Co-editor, Robin Charnley, for his dedication and hard work, and welcomed our new EC member, Tony MacNamara.

7. The Annual General Meeting was formally closed at 2.45pm