

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Coventry Sherbourne u3a Committee

Held on Thursday 1st February 2024 at 2.30pm

Present: Anne Tithecott (Chair), Bill Day, Maureen Day (Sec), Joy Copeland, Ann Karabinas, Jenny Smith, Pip Friel, Ness Makepeace, John Karabinas (Treasurer), 53 members, 2 associate members and 1 visitor.

Apologies: Elizabeth Akeister, Carol Smith, Carole Leake

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meetings were agreed by the members and signed by the Chair.

Chair's Report

The Chairwoman, Anne Tithecott, welcomed everyone to the u3a Annual General Meeting.

To summarise the key points:

The year since the last AGM has been a positive one. We have welcomed new members to our monthly meetings and the interest groups are all up and running, including the newish Afternoon Quiz group which has proved popular. I wish that more members would attend some of our other interest groups. Or perhaps volunteer to start and lead new groups linked to your interests, hobbies, and knowledge. Remember, a new group does not have to run every month. We now have more male members, and the committee is aware that groups such as Craft and Canvas work is probably not going to appeal to them. If any of our male members have ideas, interests, and knowledge to share in a more male focused interest group then please speak to me or any other committee member.

The committee and I are disappointed that despite asking for new people to join the committee no one has stepped forward. The current committee has now been in place for some years and is not getting any younger and still has 1 vacancy. We do need new volunteers with fresh ideas. Remember, that without a committee, this u3a cannot function or continue and will have to close. If anyone is willing to offer their services, you will be warmly welcomed as a co-opted member of the committee. We had hoped to present a new Constitution at this AGM which would include new rules about the number of years that officers, or committee members can be in post. However, these changes still need to be verified by u3a head office so we will have to hold an EGM later in the year.

Over the last year we have had a range of speakers at our monthly meetings including a magician, a talk on a Victorian murder, Piles Coppice an ancient woodland and photography. Some of the highlights of last year included our 30th Birthday celebration with a visit from the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress and the wonderful exhibition showcasing our members' artistic talent and we had visits to Upton House, Packwood House, and Lapworth Museum. I would like to thank a number of people. Our volunteer tea ladies, Jean, Carole, Liz, and Clare; Janet for running the raffle and supplying lovely cards and preserves; Phil and Jill for running the book and jigsaw stall and Rita for sending cards to those in poor health. A big thank you to all the group leaders and those members who help and support the committee on a more ad hoc basis. Your support is very necessary and welcome. Finally, I thank the committee for the non-stop work month by month, giving their time and energy to keep this u3a running.

Approval of the Chairwoman's report was obtained.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer, John Karabinas, gave a review of the years income & Expenditure and produced a spreadsheet for members to view.

The main source of income is from the subscription fee and the monthly door fee, and the main source of expenditure is for room hire, fees for our speakers and annual u3a annual membership fees. There is still money in the account that is ring fenced for specific interest groups. At the end of the year there was a balance of £4649.67.

The accounts have been audited by Mr J Hone who has agreed to continue in the role in the future.

Approval of the Treasurer's report was obtained.

Approval to appoint Mr J Hone as auditor for 2024 was obtained.

Future increases in fees

The fees will remain the same at £20 for annual subs and £1.50 door fee but the committee gives notice that there may be the need to raise the annual membership fee and the monthly door fee in 2025 or the door fee before if room hire increases again.

Election of Officers and Committee members

All committee members have agreed to stay on in their current roles. Anne Tithecott (chair), Bill Day (vice chair) and Maureen Day (secretary) have completed their current terms and in view of nobody coming forward to replace them have agreed to continue in their current posts. All 3 received nominations and seconds from members present so were duly elected.

AOB

None

The Annual General Meeting Closed at 2.50pm