**ASHFIELD u3a**

**16h ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Held on 28 April 2022 at the Ashwood Centre**

**1 Welcome**

Wendy welcomed everyone to the 2022 AGM

**2 Apologies for Absence**

Nona Sheriston, David Vanner, David Riley, Hilda Riley

**3 Minutes of the 15th Annual General Meeting held 22 April 2021**

Copies of the Minutes had been sent via Beacon to those paid up members on email, hard copies were available at the meeting for members not on email.

**4 Matters arising**

a) There were no matters arising

b) David Wilson proposed and Trish Tootell seconded that the minutes be approved together with all members present. There were no abstentions.

**5 Report from the Chair**

What do I say about the past year or about the past two years in fact? Who would have foreseen that we would have had to contend with a worldwide pandemic of the proportions that we have seen?

Thankfully things are now looking better and we have resumed activities. A few of our groups were dissolved and some are still to get going fully but most have restarted. The walking groups resumed very enjoyable outdoor activities as soon as the guidelines allowed and festive holidays for 2022 were booked as early as August 2021.

We started meeting with a staggered coffee and cake day in August and it was really enjoyable to see everyone being able to socialise together at last. Our first “proper” meeting in September had a wonderful turnout and was only marred by the speaker deciding not to join us at the last moment. We enjoyed a talk on nuclear physics instead! The National Trust Holiday in September was very enjoyable and the weather was mostly kind. The quiz night went ahead in November and we held a fuddle with home-grown entertainment in December. There was a question mark over Christmas celebrations but most groups had managed to celebrate before guidelines looked as though they may change again. A big thank you is due to our Social Sub-Group Committee, to all those who volunteer at meetings and to Group Leaders for all they do.

Our committee will stand down at the AGM and there are many who are standing again. I would like to give a huge thank you to all the committee members who have gone out of their way to be there all through the hard times, meeting via zoom, holding a virtual AGM and generally keeping our u3a up and running. Hopefully we will have some new committee members voted in at this AGM and my heartfelt thanks go to them for standing. We cannot continue to operate without a full quota of committee members, our committee consists of volunteers and without them we would not exist.

Currently (at the time of writing) there are no Covid guidelines in place, we now have the responsibility to take care of ourselves and hopefully the new membership year ahead will continue in the same vein. Due to the rising cost of everything we in turn have raised membership fees, but I feel we still offer excellent value for money with all that is available to our members.

We enter this year with a real sense of a new beginning so I hope that we will continue to thrive, with new groups and new members, but most of all that we will continue to support each other and our organisation with new purpose and renewed vigour into 2022/23.

Wendy Walker

**6 Treasurer’s Report**

Copies of the accounts had been sent via Beacon to all paid up members on email and hard copies were available at the meeting for members not on email..

The Treasurer reported-I am pleased to present the examined accounts for 2021/2022. The impact of the Covid pandemic is reflected in the income and expenditure totals over the past two years. Expenditure exceeded income by £1259. This is not unexpected following the reduced rate of subscription for the year.

Ashfield u3a has an operating balance of £8041.00 This represents one years operating costs and it is prudent to maintain it at this level particularly in the current financial climate. Subscriptions were increased this year for the first time in several years to enable us to meet our likely financial commitments.

The committee will keep the financial situation under review but it is not anticipated that any change to subscriptions during the year will be necessary.

The revised Charity Commission standards have required slight modification to our accounting requirements which has meant group leaders must operate through our main accounting system. In practise this will have very little impact on our financial position as most groups already operated this way.

If anyone has any questions about the accounts please feel free to ask them.

I would like to thank the group leaders and the committee for their support during my first year as treasurer and also David Vanner for his prompt and efficient examination of this years accounts.

a) David Wilson asked about Gift Aid. The Treasurer replied that this was in hand.

b) The Accounts were approved by all present.

**7 To approve the appointment of our independent examiner,** **David Vanner.**

David Vanner’s appointment was proposed by Jill Pullen and seconded by Carol Mumford and all members present with no abstentions.

**8 Approval of new constitution**

This had been sent to all paid up members via Beacon, hard copies are available for members not on email to read, Trish Tootell proposed that it be adopted and David Wilson seconded it together with all members present with no abstentions.

**9 Election of Committee**

All Committee members stood down in line with our Constitution.

The following officers were re-elected by all present with no abstentions;

Chair Wendy Walker

Vice Chair Chris Chamberlain

Treasurer Jacquie Chapman

Secretary Marilyn White

All existing committee members plus new members, Marie Clarke and Val Scott, were voted in by everyone present with no abstentions.

**10 Any Other Business**

None

**11 Date of the next Annual General Meeting**

The next AGM will be held on Thursday 27 April 2023