

ANTON U3A

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 23 June 2021 10 am by Zoom

29 members were in attendance

1. Apologies for Absence.

Robert Kemp, Judith Entwisle, Pete and Liz Duncan, Jenny Oldbury, Maggie and Jim Cunniffe, Ann and Adrian Truss, Dave Weston, Anne Bray, Pauline Broad.

Minutes of the AGM held on Wednesday 10 June 2020

Acceptance was proposed by Tessa Cross, seconded by Marilyn Price and agreed unanimously.

2. Report by the Chair

My tenure as Chair of Anton u3a commenced in December 2020 so my comments on the past 7 months will be quite brief!

It has been rather difficult taking on the chair role especially having rudimentary knowledge of Anton u3a and not being able to acknowledge and recognise the members by sight.

Fortunately, I have great support from my fellow committee members so I would like to give my thanks now to Barbie, Chris, Clive, Wilson, Tessa, Mary, Anne and Di. The committee have worked hard in ensuring members are kept up to date and arranging monthly on line meetings; all this within the confines of Covid restrictions.

Additional thanks must go to Trish for the Newsletter publication which is distributed via email or post if members are not wifi enabled and Robert Smith for managing the Anton u3a website. Final mention for thanks must go to the group leaders. Many interest categories have continued to flourish via Zoom, we have our own account (ably run by Clive) which has allowed the French, Photography, Book Club 2 and the History groups to continue.

Apologies for those I have not mentioned, or use their own personal Zoom accounts. It is encouraging that Anton u3a members have adapted well to such a difficult situation.

The phased release of lockdown measures has enabled the Walking group to get back on its feet (sorry for the pun) under the guidance of Robert, Questers are eager to get started they are booking for events from July onwards.

Wilson has been busy organising the monthly speaker. Numbers joining on Zoom have tailed off a little however the quality of the speakers has been impressive; both entertaining and informative. If you haven't joined a meeting, please give it a try.

Unfortunately, our membership has decreased to around 122 people. Subs will not be payable for year 21/22 for current members. By now the National u3a day (2 June) has taken place, it will be interesting to see if the resulting publicity will make an impact on our numbers.

I expect the most burning question is "when can we get back to Burghclere Down Community Hall?" As yet I do not have a date for our return. At the time of writing, we have an increase in the latest variant of Covid, this could have an impact on the June 21st review so we need to tread carefully. By the time of the AGM, we may have more guidance.

On a positive note, we are aiming for a picnic on the 11th August 2021. Annie has kindly volunteered to lead a team of willing volunteers (please contact Annie to offer) and Pete will deliver his fiendish quiz, it is something we can all look forward to.

One other notable event is that 2022 is the 40th anniversary of the founding of the u3a (UK). Get your thinking hats on – we need to make it a special occasion. All our activities need a committee to coordinate, please consider volunteering for vacant posts, we rely on your input.

It has been a difficult year for everyone and I hope you and your loved ones have remained well. Let's hope 21/22 continues to improve and we can meet each other again.

Carole

Comment: It was noted that the Poetry Group and the Floral Art Group had also continued through the year.

3. Adoption of Accounts

Chris Coffin presented the accounts for the year ending 31 March 2021.

Treasurer's Report. As all will be aware, the financial year which runs from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021, has been very different because of the Covid pandemic. The lockdown in March led us to cancel all meetings and group activity, and although we managed to resume some meetings by using Zoom technology, this was not possible for all groups.

Most members had paid their subscriptions for the year in March 2020, most others paid in April, but a number did not and so membership fell by 10% to a low of 122 at the end of the year.

Little activity meant little income and little expenditure, but the income was boosted by refund of deposits paid for events that didn't happen, and the receipt of gift aid for the previous year, while late invoicing for the use of the Unity minibus in February 2020 is reflected in the group expenditure.

So the net effect was that we had a deficit of £151. Fortunately, our reserves were sufficient to meet this and leave a balance of £5,000 enabling the Committee to agree that members subs should be rolled over, with no charge being made for 2021/22.

Once again, thanks to Paul Lloyd for examining the accounts.

If any member has any query or comment on the accounts, I can be contacted by post or email.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Erica Tinsley, seconded by Judi Weston and agreed unanimously.

4. Election of Committee and Officers

a. Chair

Carole Leonard by Michael Leonard, seconded by Judith Entwisle and elected unanimously.

b. Vice-Chair

Barbie Morrey-Stone was proposed by Clive Ward seconded by Leslie Ward and elected unanimously.

c. Treasurer

Chris Coffin was proposed by Glennis Dale, seconded by Robert Kemp and elected unanimously.

d. Secretary

Clive Ward was proposed by Lynda Stockings, seconded by Tessa Cross and elected unanimously.

e. Committee members

Tessa Cross, Wilson Carson, Di Burrows and Anne Bray, were re-elected to the Committee without contest.

The Committee has 2 vacancies.

6. Any other business

Lynda Stockings raised the issue of the Increasing numbers of scam emails which she believed were associated with telephone numbers and personal emails on our Anton u3a website. She recommended that personal information was removed from the website and highlighted that the Newsletter contained members personal details. Whatever the outcome Lynda was quite happy for her details to be used by Anton u3a but did not wish details to be published on the website.

Clive Ward said the Committee had discussed the issue on Mon 21 June in detail using the privacy and data protection policy on the website.

https://www.antonu3a.org/uploads/1/8/7/4/18743094/data_protection_policy.pdf

https://www.antonu3a.org/uploads/1/8/7/4/18743094/u3a_privacy_policy_for_web.pdf

After discussion it was agreed that:

- Scams are part of modern life. Members have been made aware of how to protect themselves and others. Further guidance is widely available. For example: <https://www.moneyadvice.service.gov.uk/en/articles/beginners-guide-to-scams>
- CW would discuss with the webmaster how we could effectively sanitize our website. One option was to remove back copies of Newsletters and for them to be held offline by CW.
- CW would investigate options available and the benefits of u3a officers having an email address specifically for u3a business.

CW also reminded the membership that the Membership Secretary has a separate gmail account for u3a. She uses blind copy process for all communication. Webform enquiries on our website are handled by our webmaster who directs them to the Committee Chair or Secretary for action.

CW would have further discussions with Tricia about the handling and format of future Newsletters.

The meeting closed at 1045 am.

Clive Ward
Anton u3a Secretary

Carole Leonard
Anton u3a Chair