

TETBURY AND DISTRICT U3A
MINUTES OF FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD VIA
ZOOM ON
THURSDAY, 19th NOVEMBER 2020

The Annual General Meeting was commenced at 11am on Thursday, 19th November, 2020. The meeting was chaired by the Chair of the Steering Committee, Carmel Burton. Confirmation was made that the quorum of at least eighteen Members was present.

1. WELCOME:

Carmel Burton introduced herself as Chair of the Steering Committee. An attempt had been made in October to hold a face-to-face AGM but had been thwarted by the Covid 19 virus and Government regulations.

During the Meeting, questions could be asked via the chat box or, if particularly pressing and relevant, it would be possible to 'unmute' and ask a question. A recording of the meeting would be put on the website and also an on-line voting facility. If there were numerous questions, then, because of the nature of Zoom meetings, it might be necessary to answer these later.

2. APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from the following Members:

Liz Angel. Jane Bell. Val Francis. Carol Rhys-Davies. Julian Upton. Maureen Collinson. John Latter. Kevin Thomas. Katharine Hammond. Pat Hodges. Jane Stride.

3. ANNUAL REPORT (Chair - Carmel):

The Chair reported on activities of the branch since inception in July, 2019. This had been an unusual year since the introductory meeting at the Goods Shed in May 2019. Around one hundred people attended and the great enthusiasm shown then had been instrumental in keeping us going during these difficult times.

The Chair paid tribute to Jeremy Iles North as without him there would be no Tetbury and District branch. Due to his hard work and drive we attracted a large number of Members and were able to form twenty-eight different groups. We had a variety of Speakers at our monthly meetings until

lockdown in March. Every effort had been made to continue “living, learning and laughing” and many groups had continued to meet in whatever way was possible and regular bulletins had kept Members in touch.

The Chair offered thanks to Group Leaders for their invaluable contributions: to the Steering Committee for its hard work and, mostly, to Members for their support.

There were no questions on the Report from the Chair.

4. TREASURER’S REPORT (Treasurer - Douglas):

The Treasurer reported that, in starting up, we had been advised and mentored by other more established branches and we had used this advice in initial financial projections.

The Treasurer explained the background and context of his Report, which was shown on the screen. Fixed costs included the annual contribution to National Office and to Beacon.

It had been decided early on that Groups should be self-supporting in order to avoid any unfairness.

In the first year, income had come solely from subscriptions, augmented, in the second year, by Gift Aid. Further costs included Speakers, Venue, web site and miscellaneous expenditure.

The balance at the end of the first year had enabled the Branch to set the renewal subscription at £5 to take account of the problems which had beset us due to Covid 19.

There were no questions.

A Vote was then taken THAT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT SHOULD BE ACCEPTED.

Members were reminded that they could vote later on the web site if they had any technical issues.

The vote was passed by 100% and THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT WAS DULY ACCEPTED.

5. NORMALISE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE (Business Secretary - Lawrence):

The Business Secretary explained that the £5 subscription was the minimum needed in order to pay the National Office and for Beacon. Reserves were necessary at the end of each financial year in order to cover the previous year's fixed costs. The Branch financial year runs from August whereas the National Office's financial year starts in April.

There had been some questions prior to the Meeting which had been answered to the satisfaction of the questioner.

A question was raised as to the possibility of re-alignment of the financial year with that of the National Office. The Business Secretary responded that the discrepancy, in itself, was not a problem. It did necessitate a healthy balance at the end of the year but re-alignment raised technical problems on Beacon. The matter had been discussed at length in Committee and it had been decided to leave matters as they stood.

The forecast, which was put on the screen, demonstrated that a subscription of £12 per annum was the optimum figure. Any less would lead to bankruptcy.

A Vote was then taken THAT THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE BE CONFIRMED AT £12 AS FROM 1st AUGUST 2021.

The Vote was passed by 100% and THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE WAS DULY CONFIRMED AT £12 FROM 1st AUGUST 2021.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE (Chair - Carmel):

6.1. Officers - Chair: Vice Chair: Treasurer: Business Secretary.

A question was raised as to whether these could be voted in a block but the Chair confirmed that individual votes had to be taken to comply with the Constitution.

The Chair was handed over to the Vice Chair of the Steering Committee, Anita Stride.

IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED AND SECONDED THAT CARMEL BURTON SHOULD BE CHAIR.

A vote was taken and passed 100%. CARMEL WAS DULY ELECTED.

The Chair was handed back to Carmel.

IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED AND SECONDED THAT ANITA STRIDE SHOULD BE VICE CHAIR.

A vote was taken and passed 100%. ANITA WAS DULY ELECTED.

IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED AND SECONDED THAT DOUGLAS LOOMAN SHOULD BE TREASURER.

A Vote was taken and passed 100%. DOUGLAS WAS DULY ELECTED.

IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED AND SECONDED THAT LAWRENCE MOSS SHOULD BE BUSINESS SECRETARY.

A Vote was taken and passed 100%. LAWRENCE WAS DULY ELECTED.

6.2. IT HAD BEEN PROPOSED AND SECONDED THAT AUDREY HATLEY, GAIL MOSS AND JUDITH WALKER SHOULD BE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE.

A Vote was taken and passed 100%. AUDREY, GAIL AND JUDITH WERE DULY ELECTED.

7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS:

(A) There had been a number of detailed and extremely helpful questions beforehand, already alluded to by Lawrence, on the accounts. This had led to improved explanations being included on the web site.

(B) Similarly, there had been some procedural questions which had also been very helpful in formulating the AGM.

(C) Also a question had been raised as to the projections of future membership which were felt to be low. These had been kept conservative as they also affected financial estimates. Once it is possible, it is intended to work hard to increase membership.

(D) A question had been raised as to the possibility of starting new

groups. There was an interest in a Poetry Group, also Astronomy and Engineering, Science and Technology. The Chair said that there was no reason why new Groups should not continue to be started, subject to current guidelines, and the Chair or Group Co-ordinator would both be happy to help in any way.

(E) A question was raised as to whether it was possible to give a gender division of the membership. This follows the national lines of being one-third male and two-thirds female.

(F) There had been several questions put forward on the chat screen which would be answered privately.

Audrey, as Group Co-ordinator, wished to thank all the Group Leaders for their hard work and dedication.

The Chair concluded the Meeting by thanking Members for the complimentary feed-back that had been received and assuring Members that, as soon as it was possible, there would be a social event to reintroduce Members to each other and she regretted that it was not possible on this occasion.

The Chair thanked everyone who had taken part and declared the Meeting closed.