

LYME REGIS U3A

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Woodmead Halls on Friday 12 January 2024, 10am

Committee Members/Trustees present

Richard Doney, Chair
Frances Barter, Speaker Finder designate
Mary Bohane Membership Advisor
Steve Miller, Treasurer designate
Jacqueline Pettitt, Membership Secretary
Yvonne Renouf, Secretary
Alex Ruck, Treasurer
David Ruffle

Apologies:
Mark Gillams, Groups' Co-ordinator
Rachel Jordan, Publicity

There were 71 members in attendance, with two apologies from the committee and ten from the membership.

1 **Welcome**

Richard Doney welcomed everyone, and pointed out that he had previously emailed or posted all relevant papers to members.

2 **Apologies**

Caroline Aldridge	Sandra Lello
Diane Barrett	Sandra Myers
Richard Barrett	Cinny Sharp
Joyce Beadle	Elaine Taylor
Terry Krasinska	Andy Taylor

3 **Approval of previous AGM minutes**

Philip Peed pointed out that he had been omitted from Apologies, and his wife's name was erroneously given as Gay Reed and should be Gaye Peed. Excepting this, the minutes were approved and signed.

3 **Committee reports**

Chair (Richard Doney)

As reports had already been circulated to members, it was the Chair's intention to just cover highlights.

Constitution: Our Constitution is substantially based on the model Constitution produced by u3a Headquarters. This requires committee members (trustees) to step

down after three years, then an interval of one year before they can stand again up to a total period of nine years. Many u3as have a problem with recruiting committee members, and u3a HQ have now agreed to look at an amendment to this rule to allow continuous service of up to nine years. This will be put to our members at the next AGM, and if two thirds agree, we will adopt this amendment.

Groups (Mark Gillams)

Mark reported that there is an issue of groups closing because no-one else wants to take over when leaders have been unable to continue. He asked that group members try to fill any empty places and encourage others to join the u3a. We all have a role to play in keeping up membership.

Talks (Richard Doney)

Attendance at talks has not been as good as pre-Covid. We have had some interesting talks and it is dispiriting for speakers if the audience is low.

Future talks are booked through to May 2024, and Frances Barter has agreed to take over as Speaker Finder. Refreshments will resume thanks to Philippa Fortescue.

Publicity

Rachel Jordan is not standing for committee again, and hence we are looking for someone to take over the role of Publicity Officer.

Elaine Taylor has stepped down as editor of u3a4u, and Jane Healey has taken over and would welcome input from members.

Trips

Ann Fleet has now retired and will no longer be organising trips. Many thanks to her for doing this over the years and for masterminding the Christmas lunches.

Looking to the Future

We lost some members during the Covid period, but membership is slowly recovering and we would like to encourage everyone to help keep up our numbers by introducing friends or new neighbours, especially younger people.

Membership (Jacqueline Pettitt)

Jacqueline reported that during 2023 membership has been around 450 with 34 new members.

Richard undertook an analysis of membership and found that around 50% are in the DT7 postcode, 25% in Seaton, Colyton and Axminster and 25% in Charmouth. Rachel Jordan has set up a new social group in Axminster which is well supported and may be the beginning of a new u3a.

The ratio of male/female members is 1:2 and Richard sees one of his roles as Chair is to find ways to drive up male membership.

Richard was asked to clarify eligibility to join the u3a. The answer - it is open to anyone not in full time employment. Richard also suggested that we should make use of social media, eg Facebook, where the target audience would include people who might encourage their parents to join the u3a.

At this point Ann Fleet said she would be happy to put u3a news on Facebook (but didn't want to take on Publicity).

5 **Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement (Alex Ruck)**

During the financial year 2022-23 we recorded a surplus of £1,600, primarily due to two years' Gift Aid and donations. If these are removed and late payments added, the actual surplus is c£250, and for 2023-24 will be similar.

At the end of the financial year there was a balance of £11,295. The committee has been looking at our Reserve Policy (now published on our website), and we want to hold one and a half years' subscriptions plus a small amount for technical equipment, and we plan to keep our reserve at this level.

Asset Register: We also conducted a survey of our equipment, most of which is old and has been written off, and we will just maintain a list of this.

There were no questions following the Treasurer's report, and the Accounts were unanimously adopted.

6 **Committee elections and re-elections**

Mary Bohane is retiring after many years of service from the inception of the Lyme Regis u3a in 2005. Alex Ruck is standing down having stayed for an extra year until his replacement was ready to take over. Rachel Jordan is not standing for re-election.

The remaining members of the committee have all agreed to stand again, and the motion to re-elect them was unanimously carried.

7 **Any Other Business – None**

8 **Thanks and Close**

In addition to Richard's thanks to Mary for her invaluable help and advice over 20 years, Rachael Pope added her personal thanks for Mary's support through some challenging times when she was Chair.

Richard also thanked Ann Fleet for efficiently organising many enjoyable trips, and Heather Britton for her indispensable technical help.

The meeting closed at 10.25am.