

MINUTES  
OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
OF  
WILMSLOW U3A

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 via Zoom

Present:

Christine Foreman (Chairman), David Simmons (Vice-Chairman), Eileen Clayton (Treasurer), Malcom Coward (Deputy Treasurer), Pauline Bushnell (Business Secretary), Caroline Mangnall (Membership Secretary), John Cookson (Webmaster), Beryl Pearce and Mike Redfearn ( Group Co-ordinators) and Dorothy Fenwick, Kate Forster, Peter Highfield, Christine Roberts, Margo Sibbitt , Gillian Slater (Committee Members). Also attending were about 20 members of the Wilmslow U3A. The AGM had originally been scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 but had to be adjourned due to the lack of a quorum as a result of the Covid-19 Lockdown. In accordance with the Constitution a quorum for the adjourned meeting is the number of members attending.

Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming all members present.

Minutes

The Minutes of the AGM held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2019 were presented. The acceptance of the Minutes as a true record was proposed by Carolynne Powell and seconded by David Simmons. The Chairman said that the Minutes would be displayed on the Website.

Matters arising

David Robinson raised the question of the circulation of accounts. He said that it had been agreed that the Annual Accounts would be circulated to all members before the meeting. It was pointed out to him that this had been done by way of putting them on our website. Discussion followed as to the way the accounts should be circulated and the Webmaster agreed to circulate them again via email and proceeded to do so.

Chairman's report

The Chairman commenced by thanking everyone who had joined the Zoom AGM and went on to say:

This report should have been given at our AGM on 25 March, 8 months ago, but the first lockdown intervened and we had to adjourn the meeting as we could not have a quorum, usually 15% of our members.

This rescheduled AGM is being held during our second lockdown, which is quite ironic. The quorum for this meeting is the number of participants.

My report relates to 2019 which seems a long time ago and a very different life.

2019 was a reasonably good year for Wilmslow U3A– we had 433 members in total of which 20 were new members and 53 did not renew. We set up new groups – ambling, pickleball and croquet come to mind – and all our groups were thriving. We had a number of outings including the Christmas decorations at Chatsworth and Roberts Bakery and theatre trips, including Hobson’s Choice and West Side Story, which were enjoyed by all who went.

Our monthly meetings attracted around 80-100 members each time to listen to a whole range of speakers from “Everest the Old Way” to “Burma” and Antiques. We enjoyed a great Christmas social with delicious food, provided by Christine Roberts, and Sambamba playing for us, and our joining in with various rattles, etc.

Our Christmas lunch at the Alderley Edge Hotel was also well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

My thanks to all the organisers of these.

All in all – a good year, and we were looking forward to another good year with outings and theatre trips already planned.

All this seems so different, but hopefully we can eventually get to some kind of normal in the not too distant future.

I would like to thank all our group convenors for their efforts during 2019, and ongoing organising those groups which have moved online.

I would like to finish by thanking all the Committee members who helped to make this u3a a success – without them there would be no Wilmslow u3a.

#### Treasurer’s Report

The treasurer presented the accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019 and explained that they had had to be prepared in a different form than those of earlier years due to the regulations of the Charity Commission. Once the turnover of a charity exceeds £25,000 it is necessary for them to be sent to the Charity Commission in the form prescribed by them. Our turnover for 2019 was £31,000 compared to that of 2018, which was £23,000. The total membership for the year was 433 which helped to produce an increased income, the membership fees for the year being £3,174. However, the outgoings were substantially increased mainly due to the rise in the cost of the hire of rooms at the URC. She also stated that the cost of Beacon had doubled, rising from 50p per member to £1 per member in anticipation of the new and improved version of Beacon which was due to become available some time soon. Magazine postage costs declined from £1,126 in 2018 to £958 in 2019 due to a number of members deciding not to take “Third Age Matters”. To clarify the position the cost of this item has been separately shown in the accounts. Further in accordance

with charity Commission rules the turnover relating to 'restricted activities' has to be shown separately from 'unrestricted activities'. 'Restricted' relates expenditure for groups and to pay for theatre outings and other items where the money is intended to be used for that purpose and no other. For groups the figure is £6,600 and for other social activities £19,612. The total funds at the end of year 2019 was £8738, resulting in a loss of £984. In response to an enquiry the Treasurer confirmed that our current deposits at the bank were in the region of £12,000 and she could confirm that we were financially in a very good position.

The Treasurer proposed that the accounts should be approved, seconded by Mike Redfearn. The Accounts were approved.

A signed copy of the Accounts is annexed to these Minutes.

#### Election of the Committee

The Chairman read out the names of the persons standing for election and re-election to the Committee together with the names of the Proposers and Seconders. There were no contested positions and accordingly the members proposed and seconded were elected. They are:

Chairman	Martin Cook
Vice-Chairman	Christine Foreman
Vice Chairman	Vacant
Treasurer	Eileen Clayton
Deputy Treasurer	Malcolm Coward
Business Secretary	Pauline Bushnell
Membership Secretary	David Mangnall
Webmaster	John Cookson
Interest Group Co-ordinators	Beryl Pearce and Mike Redfern
Newsletter Editor	Vacant
Speaker Co-ordinator	Margo Sibbitt
Social Secretary	Vacant

Committee members elected (or remaining in position, not requiring re-election this year) are

Dorothy Fenwick, Kate Forster, Peter Highfield and Gillian Slater

#### Motions

A Motion was proposed by Christine Foreman that the subscription for the year 2021, in view of the problems with the Covid-19 Lockdown in 2020, should be nil. There then followed considerable discussion of problems that might arise from such an arrangement and Carolynne Powell enquired if another reason for the reduction might be the amount of funds currently held. The Treasurer said that this was one reason and explained that the U3A Trust recommended that the amount held should not be more than the likely costs to be incurred in a six-months period. She said this would be about £3,500 to £4,000. It was finally agreed that the motion should be accepted to include new members joining in 2021 but that all members requiring the magazine should pay £2.50.

**Any other business**

Christine Foreman asked whether the membership present would like to continue with the Zoom arrangement to cover the monthly meetings and said that the Speaker Co-ordinator had a list of speakers who were happy to give talks via Zoom and this suggestion was accepted.

Christine Foreman stated that until such time as a Newsletter Editor was found she was happy to continue to produce the Newsletter and the next edition would include details of the AGM and the election of the officers and committee.

Martin Cook then proposed a vote of thanks to Christine Foreman for her work as Chairman for a rather longer time than she had originally intended and Peter Scurfield proposed a vote of thanks to Caroline Mangnall who was standing down at the end of her six years on the committee during which time she had served as Membership Secretary with great efficiency and humour, and for the help she had given him in the years that he was Chairman. The votes of thanks were duly carried.

There being no other business, the Chairman formally closed the Annual General Meeting 2020.

Chairman.....

Date.....