

## WEST WILTS u3a

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WEDNESDAY 15 MARCH 2023 at 2.00 p.m. ST JAMES'S HALL, TROWBRIDGE and on ZOOM

**PRESENT:** Dennis Drewett (Chairman), Ken Foster (Treasurer), Pam Pepler (Secretary), Sheryl Jotcham, Lynda O'Connor, Julie Quartley, Barry Reeves, Kate Winfield (Minutes)

There were 95 members present in the Hall with 13 attending on Zoom.

- 1. Introduction and Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting in the hall and on Zoom. He started the meeting with a few moments silence for absent friends.
- 2. Apologies:** Elizabeth and John Williams, Dickon Povey, Jenny and Mike Dennis, Pat Easton, Mike Holden, Wendy Ladd, Rachel Martin, Kate Yeates, Derryn Stafford, Sally Terry, Linda Reeves.
- 3. Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 16 March 2022**  
All the relevant documents had been circulated to the membership online and were available on the website. Hard copies were handed out to those in the hall who requested them.
- 4. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on Wednesday 16 March 2022**  
There were no matters arising and therefore it was proposed that they be accepted as a true record. Accepted unanimously and signed by the Chairman.
- 5. Chairman's Annual Report**  
I want to thank all your officers, committee and the other volunteers that work behind and alongside our committee for their hard work and their commitment throughout this year.

Well it's been a year since I picked up this role as chairman of West Wilts u3a from John and our much missed Yvonne, when, as you will probably remember, for various reasons, the pandemic, amongst many others we found ourselves somewhat struggling on several fronts, one being to fill our committee and officer posts. Since then we have had several people come forward to test the water and see if a committee role suited them, for one or two it unfortunately did not but I am really very grateful that they gave it a go, but for a few it seemed a right move for them and they have become valued members of your committee. One or two roles still need to be filled but there are positive signs for that too.

Our membership numbers have picked up and we have new interest groups being formed. Pam, our already busy secretary, who kindly offered to temporarily cover the still vacant role of Groups' Coordinator, has done a brilliant job helping them to set up and get established.

Ken picked up the Treasurer's role during the past year and is doing a sterling job.

I have mentioned these two individually but again I want to stress that without the ongoing commitment and hard work of all the committee and committee support individuals our WWu3a would fail.

At last year's AGM I promised to try and make some changes to our Constitution which would attempt to relieve the pressure on recruiting new committee members. The Third Age Trust had posted a new Model Constitution which in some way answered the problem but not enough. With a couple of alterations/modifications it was a much better solution. I have had these modifications approved and you will see that later in our agenda. I keep saying this and I really mean it, we have and enjoy our WWu3a, we all see the benefits it brings by way of keeping people busy and involved, supporting people's wellbeing and helping to reduce isolation. So please talk about us to friends and family, spread the word and help to let others take advantage of what we have to offer.

- 6. Treasurer's Report**  
The Treasurer started by explaining what 'Beacon' was to members, especially new ones. All Trustees can access the financial data on Beacon, and this goes some way to replacing an Assistant Treasurer, as this gives some accountability to back up the work of the Treasurer.

The accounts for the year ended 31st December 2022 have been approved by an independent examiner. The accounts have been prepared based on individual transactions directly input to the financial section of our Beacon Management software. They have been uploaded to our website and have been circulated to all members, who have provided an email address.

### **General Account**

The General account covers our unrestricted funds which are used for the benefit of all our members. Funds are of course mainly generated by the subscriptions raised.

Membership income was £9,045 which is about the same as last year, but the total funds for 2022 have been boosted with additional 'Grants and Donation' income.

The figure of £3,146 includes:

- £922 grant from Wiltshire Council
- £1,749 gift aid claimed back from HMRC for 2020 and 2021
- £135 from Yvonne Doonan's family.

You will note that our expenditure for 2022 was higher than 2021, primarily due to new equipment purchases to support 'hybrid' monthly meetings. (The Wiltshire Council grant covered almost 50% of that expenditure).

The TAM magazine figure is misleading as £500 of it covered part of 2021's bill which was settled in instalments. The last invoice for £1,231 covers us for 12 months to March 2023 and was settled in August.

### **Groups and Trips Accounts**

These activities are self-funding and restricted to those activities, generally operating on a break even basis. They are not controlled by the committee.

We have seen a welcome increase in activity in both areas following our release from Covid'.

### **Summary**

The standard membership fee of £15 has been roughly used as follows:

- |                           |       |
|---------------------------|-------|
| • Capitation Fee to TAT   | £4.00 |
| • Beacon software licence | £1.00 |
| • TAM magazine            | £3.35 |
| • WestWilts magazine      | £4.65 |
| • General costs           | £2.00 |

The current economic climate is of concern, and we remain unsure as to potential inflation levels, but we have sufficient reserves to maintain the membership fee at its current level into 2023, but this will be continued to be monitored.

Indeed we have seen increased charges for our local magazine and are advised that the TAM magazine will be charged at £3.60 per copy from April 2023.

The Third Age Trust, at the AGM in November, had introduced various resolutions and amendments to raise the Capitation Fee – but the membership voted against any increase at this time.

The 'Gift Aid' scheme is a welcome boost to our coffers. For a standard £15 membership, we can claim a further £3.75 back from HMRC at no cost to yourselves. If you have any doubt as to your eligibility, please ask.

Finally, thank you to all those that have supported me in my 'introductory' year on the committee.

### **7. Appointment of Independent Examiner for West Wilts u3a Accounts**

Members were asked for their approval for the Committee to choose an Independent Examiner for the accounts for the next financial year. This was approved by an overwhelming majority.

### **8. Election of Chair and Deputy Chair**

The one nomination for Chair, Dennis Drewett was approved unanimously.

There were no nominations for Deputy Chair and there were no proposals from the floor.

9. **Election of Treasurer and Secretary**  
 Ken Foster was nominated for Treasurer.  
 Pamela Pepler was nominated for Secretary.  
 These were approved unanimously.

10. **Election of Committee Members**  
 The following in the table below were all elected unopposed in a vote.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Proposed By</b>	<b>Seconded By</b>
Dennis Drewett	Chair	John Marsden	Caroline Marsden
	Deputy Chair		
Ken Foster	Treasurer	Ann Dibble	Rosemary Harding
Pamela Pepler	Secretary	Joan Johnson	Jean Stanford
Alan Soldat	Groups' Coordinator	David Feather	Ray Fox
David King	Web Master	Michael Payne	Lesley Dawe
Lynda O'Connor	Committee Member	Gill Laing	Mary Wiggins
Sheryl Jotcham	Committee Member	Ruth Vine	Lesley Povey
Barry Reeves	Committee Member	Linda Reeves	Penny Colman
Dinah Starkey	Committee Member	Joan Johnson	Jenny Bailey
Julie Quartley	Committee Member	Jean Stanford	Joan Johnson
Mike Holden	Committee Member	Lesley Povey	Angela West

Two members from the floor expressed an interest in joining the Committee:  
 Mike Prior and Peter Carr. The Chairman explained that within the committee, various roles will be allocated.

11. **Adoption of u3a Model Constitution with amendments**  
 There were no questions and no discussion, therefore the modified constitution was approved.
12. **Any Other Business**
- John Marsden reminded people who hadn't collected their membership cards to do so after the meeting.
  - Ken Foster brought to everyone's attention a 'suggestion box' which would be at the back of the hall for members to put in suggestions or comments, good or bad.
  - Dinah Starkey put in a plea for help with tea/coffee making for monthly meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 14:40

**Date of Next Annual General Meeting: Wednesday 20 March 2024**

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....