



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2022/23

Thursday 2 February 2023 10:00
At Christ Church, Lord Street, Southport

Charity Number: 1164448

Present: Paddy McNeish, Chris Howorth, Brian Muddiman, Jim Hay, Dawn Oldfield, Ian Homewood, Peter Lawler, Lisa Fryer, Jean Stewart

Apologies for Absence: Ilush and David Bricknell, Steve and Mary Hardwick, Alan Town, Viv Pullman

Declaration of Interest: None

1. Welcome by the Chair: Paddy McNeish called the meeting to order and introduced two members of the Drama Group who entertained the meeting with an excerpt from their pantomime. With 328 members attending a quorum had been achieved.

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the 2021/22AGM:

Proposed: Patricia Saunders

Seconded: Bobbie Holman

Agreed unanimously by a show of hands. There were no abstentions.

3. Matters Arising: None

4. Chair's Report: Paddy McNeish reported on a year spectacular for its achievements including the growth in activities, the talent displayed at the Christmas Party, the quarterly magazine, the filling of all Committee roles, the Southport Flower Show garden and stand and the implementation of Simple which had been a learning curve for everyone. Paddy thanked Group Leaders who had given up their time to contribute to the success of both groups and of Southport U3A. Many new groups were headed up by leaders drawn largely from enthusiastic new members.

In a decision not taken lightly membership fees had been raised from £10 to £15 -the first rise since 2011 - but they still remained one of the lowest fees amongst UK U3As. The increased fee would ensure the maintenance of the excellent service to the membership developed over the past years.

The new Treasurer and Business Secretary were introduced and received a round of applause. Paddy thanked everyone for their support during the year and in particular Viv Pullman who was stepping down as Social Secretary.

Looking to the future although Covid had set back U3A numbers nationwide the institution had proved a lifeline for many suffering loneliness. Southport had seen a great increase in

mental health issues. Numbers were rallying and membership now stood at 1803. Capping numbers had been discussed to reduce waiting lists for popular groups but a commitment as a charity to the motto Learn, laugh, live meant Southport U3A would remain open to all. Moreover new members were a valuable resource, volunteering for more opportunities, developing new ideas and bringing new enthusiasm. The Committee were working to identify opportunities for the formation of new groups. Suggestions would be welcome and should be discussed with Dawn Oldfield.

An Events group had been set up to take on the social secretary's role and develop it further. It would continue to support existing events while identifying opportunities for new ones such as the Coronation Tea Party. The Gardening Group were already in discussion with the Flower Show organisers over our 2023 contribution and discounted tickets for members had again been offered. A new Volunteer Group was to be established working with Compassion Acts to assist the local community employing the wide range of members skill sets. Paddy invited the Committee to stand and they were given a round of applause.

5. Treasurer's Report: The Accounts had previously been circulated to all members. Peter Lawler confirmed that the Independent Examiner of the accounts had signed their report on 27 January 2023 following their approval by the Committee. The Examiners have given a clean report, so the accounts can be relied upon. A full audit is only required if income exceeds £1m.

He then gave a summary of the accounts, explaining that the surplus for the year of £5197 consisted of £6857 surplus on groups and activities and £1660 deficit on overheads. The comparison figures for the previous year were much reduced due to Covid. He then explained that the accumulated surplus of £50245 consisted of £25410 of Group Reserves and £25735 of General reserves.

Questions:

Paulina Wall queried how Southport U3A as a charity would use the the reserve going forward. PL explained groups were free to use their Group Reserves for any activity compatible with U3A guidelines however the general reserve was operating capital. He explained that charities work on the assumption that 6 months operating costs should be held in general reserve and that based on the previous year's expenditure £25k was a reasonable figure to hold. Chris Howorth emphasized that it was correct business practice to hold a general reserve to cover emergencies and eventualities.

Dave North asked for an explanation of the capitation fee . PL explained that it was a fee-currently £4 - paid per member from their subscriptions to the National U3A as a requirement of being part of the association.

6: Approval of the Examined Accounts (balance sheet)

Proposed: Brian Mitchell

Seconded: Bobbie Matthews

Approved unanimously by a show of hands. There were no abstentions.

7: Approval of the Continued Appointment of J A Fell and Co as Examiners for the Accounts

Proposed: Derek Kershaw

Seconded: Helen Makin

Agreed unanimously by a show of hands. There were no abstentions.

8. Election of Officers and Committee Members

As the current Chair and Membership Secretary were elected in accordance with the previous constitution they continued in their current roles without need for re-election. The following had been nominated and offered themselves for election:

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| Christine Howorth as Vice Chair- | Proposed: Anne Rushton Seconded: Karen Oakes |
| Brian Muddiman as Secretary - | Proposed: Jessica Wright Seconded: Susa Tyrer |
| Peter Lawler as Treasurer - | Proposed: Diane Fitton Seconded: Denise Salter |
| Dawn Oldfield as Group Activities Coordinator | Proposed: Roberta Homewood Seconded: Ilush Bricknell |
| Lisa Fryer as Events Secretary - | Proposed: Myra Hunter Seconded: Helen Makin |
| Ian Homewood News Editor and IT- | Proposed: Brian Tyler Seconded: Ron Tate |

As there were no contested posts it was proposed the nominations be considered en bloc.

Proposed: Carol Walsh

Seconded: Rowan Mitenburg

Agreed unanimously by a show of hands. There were no abstentions.

It was proposed the members nominated be elected as Trustees of Southport U3A

Proposed: Sue Thomas

Seconded: Brian Mitchell

9: Chair's Closing Remarks: Paddy McNeish closed the formal business of the AGM at 11:15.

Approved:

Date: