



Minutes of the 28th Annual General Meeting
held on Monday 9 October 2023 at 2.30pm
at Petersfield Community Centre

In the Chair: Charles Price, Chair of the Management Committee

1. Notice of the Meeting issued on Friday 4 September 2023

Taken as read.

2. Chair's Welcome and Apologies

The Chair of the Meeting welcomed 119 attendees to the AGM.

Apologies were received from Mike Piatek, Susan James, Les and Hilary Jarman, Peter Clist, Sue Besant, James Deane, Julia and Brian Mayo, Diana Gange, Jean Simpson, Jenny and Peter Thwaites, Linda and Clive Hutton, Pam and Ian Chambers, Maxine Morrell, Madeline Fox, Felicity Heal, Brian and Eileen Ellis, Peta Sievwright, Ray and Sue Hubber, Jackie Rookes, Mary Kearley, Gillian Neill, L McBarron, Jan Mallett, Peter Ball, Paul and Pauline Kneen, Bruce Buchanan, Diana Collins, Monica Taylor, David and Carole Kidd, Rosemary Skrzypczak, Denise Liscombe, Carol Richards, Gillian Froelich.

Five members authorised the Chair of the Meeting to cast a proxy vote; one member submitted an absentee voting form.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the 27th Annual General Meeting held on 10 October 2022 were unanimously agreed as a true record; there were no matters arising.

4. Chair's Annual Report

Charles Price, Chair of the Management Committee gave a summary of his annual report, which had been circulated by email and post to members prior to the meeting. He drew attention to three specific issues:-

- Importance of volunteers. A central tenet of the u3a was that it should be volunteer led and run. Group leaders and others devoted a lot of their personal time, often unnoticed; they needed to be appreciated and he thanked them all on the members' behalf. However, it was vital to have a regular flow of new talent and ideas, and the Chair urged all members,

especially those recently joined, to consider carefully how they could contribute.

- Digitisation. The rapid pace of change could be baffling, and members' patience and perseverance was appreciated as new processes and procedures were introduced and tested and became more familiar.
- Financial Reserves. Petersfield u3a had a significant Reserve holding which was now surplus to the charity's needs. During Covid and the subsequent cost of living crisis, the Management Committee had maintained a holding position, but it was now appropriate to address the situation. They were considering how this might be done in accordance with our Charitable Objects; present thinking tended towards a one-off delay of membership renewal in 2024 and a progressive reduction in annual subscriptions until Reserves reached a more appropriate level. Members would be advised in the coming months and their approval sought for the proposed course of action.

In closing, the Chair drew attention to his concerns regarding the Management Committee and the need for members to find and encourage those willing to stand from among their number. The committee would be seeking to work with group leaders to further this objective.

Marjorie Day proposed the adoption of the Chair's annual report, seconded by Janetta Dobinson; it was accepted unanimously.

5. Annual Accounts

The Accounts for the year to 31 August 2023 having been circulated by email and post prior to the Meeting, Greg Cumming, Treasurer, gave comments. The Independent Financial Examiner had approved the Report. The financial situation remained healthy whilst the Management Committee had maintained its commitment to subsidise Group activities during Covid recovery over the past year. Hence the planned operating deficit of £2,557, which was fully supported by Reserves of over £30,000. A new feature of the Statement of Financial Activities was the identification of Group assets within Restricted Funds, in some cases significant holdings which should be reduced. There being no questions, Duncan Wright proposed the adoption of the Annual Financial Report and Accounts, seconded by Sarah Price. They were adopted unanimously.

6. Appointment of the Financial Examiner

The re-appointment of James William Cleverly as Independent Financial Examiner, proposed by Peter Lake and seconded by Gordon Watts, was approved unanimously.

7. The Meeting noted the resignation from the Management Committee of Gordon Watts, Linda Hutton and Marjorie Day. All were thanked for their commitment and hard work.

8. Following proposal by Tim Salter, seconded by Jenny Cumming, the following were unanimously re-elected to the Management Committee:

Charles Price
Jenny Thwaites – Vice Chair
Robina Whitehorn – Secretary
Louise Fox
Peter Lake

9. Following proposal by Jean Cooper, seconded by Caroline Hilton, the following were elected unanimously to the Management Committee:-
Greg Cumming (co-opted March 2023) – nominated by Charles Price as Treasurer
Sandy Stephens (co-opted August 2023) – nominated by Robina Whitehorn
10. Having been nominated by the Management Committee, Charles Price was overwhelmingly re-elected Chair of the Management Committee for the second year of a potential three-year term.
11. **Any Other Business**
On behalf of members, Caroline Hilton proposed a Vote of Thanks to the Chair of the Management Committee for his leadership and hard work over the past year.
12. There being no further business, Charles Price thanked everyone for attending and wished all members an enjoyable year ahead.
13. The meeting concluded at 2.55pm.
14. Date of the next Annual General Meeting – 14 October 2024

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12 October 2023