

Minutes of our Annual General Meeting on 11th of May 2021

Because of the coronavirus pandemic restrictions, the Annual General Meeting was conducted by either digital or postal means. Agendas were distributed to all members of the Moseley, Kings Heath and District u3a. These included annual reports from the Joint Chairs, Treasurer, Membership Secretary and Interest Group Coordinators. Members were asked to vote on five resolutions and given the opportunity to ask questions appertaining to each of the reports. Questions of a general nature were also invited.

One hundred and ninety-six digital and eighteen postal responses were received.

The votes on the five resolutions were:

Agreement of minutes of previous AGM: 212 for and 2 against.

To approve the appointment of Helena Mandelberg as Inspector of Accounts for 2021/22 financial year: 212 for and 2 against.

To authorises the Executive Committee to decide an appropriate membership fee for the 2022/23 year: 214 for and 0 against.

To approve the new Executive Committee for 2021/22: 213 for and 1 against.

To approve Jackie Spearpoint as a Non-Officer member of the new Executive Committee for 2021/22, under the special circumstances defined:
213 for and 1 against.

Questions raised regarding the Joint Chairs' report.

Any news about groups meeting in person yet, please?

The committee has been considering this carefully. Clearly, we must adhere to the Government Roadmap, which is gradually relaxing restrictions as we reach each stage of transitioning out of lockdown and we are also following the advice of the u3a Trust. Stage 2 of the Roadmap in April allowed our walking groups to meet subject to completing risk assessments approved for the Ramblers. Stage 3 of the Roadmap on May 17th gave permission for groups of up to six to meet indoors subject to social distancing, ventilation and appropriate sanitisation. In practice however most of our

groups are larger than six and our meeting places do not have enough space to allow social distancing. We have therefore decided that groups should not meet again in public venues at this stage and should only meet in private homes if they can meet Government conditions and have satisfactorily completed the risk assessment forms that can be found on our website. The Interest Group Coordinators can provide advice and guidance on this to group leaders. We very much hope that the final stage of the Roadmap will allow us all to meet up again before long.

[With a small committee how will the needs of the existing membership and the desire to expand be balanced?](#)

Our top priority is to meet the needs of our existing membership. We are not seeking to expand for the sake of it and any attempts to attract new recruits must be aimed at improving the experience and pleasure that our existing members derive from their membership. We are a small committee and will therefore need to work with other members who, whilst not keen to serve on the committee, are nevertheless willing to help out. We already have a few volunteers. We would of course be delighted as always to welcome new committee members and can co-opt people who are interested in taking on an interesting and rewarding challenge.

[Is there any way to help those who wish to learn how to use Zoom or other social media so they can participate in online activities?](#)

The national u3a website does already offer tutorials on the use of Zoom, which I would recommend looking at. If there is demand for further tuition we will consider it (although there may be less need for this after we reach the end of the Government Roadmap). Joining a Zoom session as a member is quite simple – merely a matter of clicking on a link – but setting up a Zoom session requires more technical knowledge, so we will probably need to consider different levels of technical need.

[Questions raised regarding the Interest Group Coordinators' report.](#)

[Do you plan to develop any groups which involve dancing?](#)

A request for suggestions for new groups were in two recent newsletters. There were no requests for dancing groups but this does not mean that it cannot happen in the

future, if there are sufficient members who want to be involved and if there is a suitable venue. See page 7.

What is the strategy for improving connectivity with groups of friends which think of themselves as largely autonomous?

There isn't one. The Committee has been focussed on enabling groups to continue meeting via social platforms as in-person meeting have been prohibited. Details on courses about Zoom have been included in the newsletter and interim newsletters have been published to keep members connected and informed, whether they are online or not. The IGCs have endeavoured to keep Group Leaders informed by email, via the newsletter and online meetings. It is not clear what is meant by 'autonomous' but if these groups meet outside of the auspices of the u3a, the IGCs do not know about it and cannot be responsible for their activities.

Will the committee be advising us of suitable/ available venues once we are able to meet up again eg the Quaker Meeting House in KH is under new management? And can you provide a link for us to click on to access the risk assessments please.

All of this is in hand and will be fully addressed by the new Executive Committee. A link to the Risk Assessments is provided in the Health and Safety section of this Newsletter.

Questions raised regarding the Treasurer's report.

If hired venues are more expensive when they reopen and the number of members participating is reduced what will be policy on AVCs ?

All questions regarding venues etc will obviously need to wait till we have had a meeting, but I have received an email from the new management of Friends Meeting House. Initially, I thought it was an error as it came from central office in town but I

understand that this is now where the Friends Meeting House in Kings Heath will be managed from. Probably better for us to get all information centrally and then we can send it out to groups as and when we know.

Questions raised regarding the Membership Secretary's report..

There were no questions raised.

General questions

I noticed in the survey of members interests that social activities were positively commented on. The new committee does not appear to include a social secretary, please can you advise what the plans are for the future coordination of social activities.

We are intending to carry out the duties of social secretary as a committee, sharing the tasks between us with the help of volunteers from among the membership. Involving more people will allow us to gain a better understanding of the type of social activities members would enjoy and encourage more participation.

Could we be clearer in advertising which groups are on zoom?

Unfortunately, we don't keep a record of which groups are operating on zoom as we leave it to the groups to decide. In any case the situation is likely to change over the next month or two as we, hopefully, progress out of lockdown. The best way of finding out the current and future situation is to ask the leader of the group that you are interested in joining.