**Annual General Meeting of U3A in Ludlow**

**held at 10:30 am on Monday 27th March 2023**

**at Ludlow Assembly Rooms**

**The Chair, Janice Haines,** began the meeting by welcoming everyone to the AGM.

**1. Apologies for Absence**

 Apologies were received *from Nino Binns, Karen Coleman, Ann Cheng, Melia & Pete Cope,*

 *Reg Fletcher, Yve Gordon, David Hatchell, Vivien Hollis, Bettine Howes, Margot Sutton, Richard Vaughan, Margaret Watkins, Steven Wood, Marion Wooldridge.*

**2. Minutes of the Previous AGM (27th March 2022) and matters arising**

The Minutes had previously been posted on the u3a in Ludlow website. *Janice Haines* asked if anyone present had any corrections or matters arising. There being none, acceptance of the Minutes as a true record of the meeting was proposed by *Stuart McClaren*, seconded by *Janet Finney*, and approved by those present.

**3. Adoption of the Chair’s Report for 2022**

*Janice Haines* presented her Chair’s report which had previously been posted on the Ludlow u3awebsite and outlined the key points. She said that during her first year as Chair confidence in attending group meetings and monthly meetings had returned and she expected Ludlow u3a to continue to thrive during 2023. Some groups still chose to meet by Zoom and although some study groups had closed new groups were being formed all the time. Currently there are 57 groups which are the backbone of Ludlow u3a. She pointed out that being a group coordinator was not an onerous task and that if there is no coordinator there can be no group.

A new initiative for 2022 was meetings for new members to meet each other and the committee. There were 100 new members, and the membership is beginning to grow again post-Covid.

Thanks were given to Sue Billing for finding such interesting and varied speakers for the monthly meetings and to Gillian Sharpe who, for many years, has been the welcome face on the door every month.

In the absence of any questions arising, acceptance of the Chair’s Report was proposed by *Chris Cole*, seconded by *Sue Harrison-Stone*, and approved by those present.

**4. Adoption of the Treasurer’s Report for 2022**

The Treasurer’s Report and the summary of income and expenditure had previously been posted on the *u3a in Ludlow* website and *Grace Wilkins* outlined the key points. In 2022 there was a surplus of £95 and the reason for the deficit of £1356 in 2021 was because the membership subscription for that year was halved because of disruptions due to the Covid pandemic.

The Treasurer went on to explain why the committee had decided on the increase in the annual membership fee from £12 to £16 for 2024 and subsequent years. Clearly the surplus of £95 in 2022 is not enough year on year and many of the costs are beyond the control of the committee, notably the capitation fee to the Third Age Trust and room hire at Ludlow Assembly Rooms. She illustrated the expenditure for 2022 with this pie chart.

The Treasurer then invited questions from the floor.

A question was asked about the Beacon fee. Ludlow u3a was charged £1 per member in 2022 and as Treasurer and Membership Secretary *Grace Wilkins* said that it was an essential tool in managing all the necessary processes including subscriptions paid by PayPal. *Barbara Ball* added that the committee also found it very helpful in monitoring the membership of Study Groups and some coordinators found it a very convenient way of communication with their members.

A second question asked what were the benefits to Ludlow u3a from the capitation fee paid to the Third Age Trust. *Janice Haines* replied that they provide Study Group Advisers for each subject area as well as resources which study groups can use. A wide range of online and other courses are available to all members. They provide help and support to the committee and arrange Third Party Insurance and a Copyright Licence. *Barbara Ball* added that in her role of Secretary over the last three years she had worked with the Chair, and the previous Chair, to produce a constitution as well as several policies for u3a Ludlow. All these are available on our website. She could not have done this without the help of the Trust.

A third question asked what was included in ‘Other’ expenditure. *Grace Wilkins* said this included room hire for committee meetings and new members meetings, licence fees, postage and stationery and PayPal charges

There being no further questions from the floor acceptance of the Treasurer’s Report and Accounts was proposed by *Andy Mulford*, seconded by *Penny Robinson*, and approved by those present.

**5. Vote to agree amendment to the constitution of Ludlow u3a**

 ***Remove 16(2)(b) from the constitution of Ludlow u3a so that the Vice Chair is not an Officer***

*Janice Haines* explainedthat under our constitution committee members serve for one year and must be re-elected annually. When someone who has been an Officer of Ludlow u3a wants to be re-elected they cannot be elected to another Officer role on the committee. This means that someone who has been Vice Chair could not then stand for the role of Chair the following year. The committee has agreed that this is not helpful in developing people’s skills to become Chair of Ludlow u3a which is why the committee has proposed this motion. The Trust has given Ludlow u3a permission to make this amendment (as required by the constitution) and a simple majority of those present at the AGM is required to approve this motion.

There being no questions about this proposal *Janice Haines* said that the motion and been proposed by the Secretary *Barbara Ball* and seconded by her as Chair. The motion was unanimously approved by a show of hands from those present.

**6. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

*Janice Haines* pointed out that all those standing for officers and committee members had been proposed and seconded as required by the constitution.

*Barbara Ball’s* three-year term of office as Secretary had come to an end so she had to stand down from that role. The election of the Officers of Ludlow u3a then to*o*k place: *Janice Haines* was standingas Chair, *Grace Wilkins* as Treasurer and *Sue Curthoys* as Secretary. *Janice Haines* suggested a vote on their election ‘en bloc’. All three appointments were unanimously approved by a show of hands from those present.

*Janice Haines* suggested that the election of committee members was also taken ‘en bloc’: four people from the previous committee: *Barbara Ball*, *Michael Cooke, Sue Billing* and *Peter Law,* and two new members to the committee: *Cath Beardes* and *Deborah Tillsley.* All six appointments were unanimously approved by a show of hands from those present.

**7. Election of Examiner**

*Grace Wilkins* explained that *Ian Stewart*, who has examined Ludlow u3a’s accounts for years at no charge is retiring and, while we are not required to have our accounts examined, she asked if there was a member of Ludlow u3a who would be willing to take on that role she would be pleased to talk to them about it.

**8. Any Other Business**

*Janice Haines* asked if there were items of other business. There were none.

 **The meeting was declared close at 11:10am.**