



**CHINNOR & DISTRICT U3A**  
Registered Charity No. 1078824

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**  
**held at the Village Hall, Chinnor, Oxfordshire**  
**at 14:30 on Thursday, 25 July 2024**

**1. Open meeting.**

Nettie Dearmun ND (Chair) opened the meeting at 14:30 and welcomed those present to the 25<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Chinnor & District u3a. She invited them to look at the slide show of the events of the last year on the new screen at the back of the hall, enjoy the cake and thanked Wendy Hawkins for the beautiful flower display.

There were 124 attendees in the hall and 40 postal and 7 proxy votes. Apologies had been received from

Jackie Griffiths; Catherine Twitchett; Jan Hemmings; Les Hemmings; Barbara Francis; Krystyna Hewitt; Viv Haywood; John Haywood; Maureen Owens; Rob Holdaway; Brian Fowler; Ken Acton; David Fahey; Bob Lambert; Jenny Marriner Kyle; John Bucktrout; Ros Noy; Ray Noy Simon Kearey

Margaret Lambert ML (Business Secretary) confirmed that the AGM was Quorate and could proceed

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 July 2023**

- i. Questions/comments Ann Long requested minutes amended to correct the spelling of her name Anne should be Ann Long
- ii. The minutes were approved

**Proposer:**  
Andrew Montgomery

**Seconder:**  
Dorrie Oliver

**3. Receipt and Approval of the Chair's Annual Report year ending 31 May 2024.**

- i. ND delivered the Annual report which had been circulated to all members. This was taken as read and some aspects were highlighted.

Thanks was extended to Diane Calver (DC) (Welfare Officer); Maxine Bennell (MB) (Membership Secretary) and Marion Turfrey (MT) (Outings Co-ordinator) who had resigned from the Committee. It was noted that DC would continue in the role of Welfare Officer and MB would continue to lead the Strollers Group.

Attention was drawn to the increase in membership from 2023 and the additional Special Interest Groups and limited season events e.g Thirsty Thursdays and Second Sunday Silver Screen

Members were urged to look at the new website which had come to fruition through the work of Bob Hine and Pete Way. This would be shown on the screen at the back of the hall.

The u3a had received funding from SODC for the Health & Wellbeing themed groups i.e Nordic Walking (Kurling 2023) and this year a bid had been submitted to run a yoga class.

Succession planning and sustaining the future of the u3a was to be a priority in 2024-25. The roles of Vice Chair and Membership Secretary remain vacant. Unless the resolution is passed the term of the Chair and Treasurer ends in 2025\*.

- ii. Questions/comments: Rosie Hetherington enquired about who would be undertaking the Membership Secretary role. ND responded that she would be standing in, with the support of Pete Way and Peter Lambert, until a permanent replacement could be found
- iii. The annual Report for the year ending 31 May 2024 was approved

**Proposer:**  
Paul DeJongh

**Seconder:**  
Ann Long

#### **4. Receipt and Approval of the Annual Accounts Year ending 31 May 2024.**

- i. The report and accounts had been circulated to all members and was taken as read. Peter Lambert (PL) highlighted the key points.
- ii. Attention was drawn to the amounts donated from Riveria Travel (RT). PL reminded members, that to secure a donation, they would need to identify that they were members of the Chinnor & District u3a. The contribution from RT could be used to further the aims of the u3a but not for individual refunds.
- iii. This year the reserve would be used to fund new SIG's (until they were self-sustaining), and celebration events. Members were asked to inform the Chair if they had any suggestions for activities and events to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.
- iv. Simon Kearey, (SK) External Examiner, had reviewed the accounts and no issues had been raised.
- v. This year several laptops had been purchased and a member had raised a question about identifying depreciation in the accounts. PL acknowledged that this was an interesting point but that this was not necessary. There were no further questions/comments

- i. The Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 May 2024 were approved

**Proposer:**  
Janet Erskine

**Seconder**  
Peter Hetherington

#### **5. Vote on proposed amendment to the Constitution**

The Treasurer and Chair were asked if they would be prepared to extend their term and they gave affirmation. ND read out the propose amendment as below

*'The Committee proposes that the maximum term of Office for the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer be extended from three to five years. Under the current Constitution the terms of Office for the Chair and Treasurer terminate at the same time. In the absence of a Vice Chair for two key Officers to retire at the same time is not ideal for the smooth running of the u3a. Extending the terms of Office will allow more time to find a new Chair, a Vice Chair and Treasurer'.*

#### **Key discussion points**

There were several views put forward. Those who opposed the resolution felt that an extension for 5 years would delay the resolution of the issue. There was a view that the Committee could be more proactive in terms of identifying a successor and more transparent about the role, extolling the personal benefits and satisfaction to be gained. One member suggested that a tenure of 3 years for the Chair did not allow sufficient time to establish and develop the role.

When the vote was taken the resolution to amend the constitution was carried. There was a commitment from the Chair that the Committee would increase efforts to find a Vice Chair, who would ultimately become the Chair. This would commence with all members being invited to the next Committee Open Meeting on 4 September 2024, where the focus would be on the volunteering strategy.

The proposal was carried with 4 against: Peter Hetherington; Rosie Hetherington, Mick Barnes and Krystyna Hewitt (postal vote)

**Proposer:**  
Simon Thorpe

**Seconder**  
Karin Dawson-Smith

**6. Election of Members of the Committee.**

i. Nomination forms have been received as follows:

Annette (Nettie) Dearmun	Karin Dawson Smith
Paul de Jongh	Dorothea Dunn
Margaret Lambert	Peter Lambert
Peter Way	John Styles

All candidates were elected to the Committee for a period of 12 months until the AGM in July 2025

**Proposer:**  
Mike Dix

**Seconder:**  
Janet Erskine

**7. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts**

Simon Kearey was appointed for another year as Examiner of Accounts. ND declared a conflict of interests and confirmed that she was not a signatory for expenses

**Proposer:**  
Mike Dix

**Seconder**  
Karin Dawson-Smith

**8. Any Other Business.**

There was no any other business

The AGM was closed at 15:25

**9. Next AGM will be Thursday 17 July 2025 at 14:30 Chinnor Village Hall**

Commented [A1]: