



**MINUTES OF THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL  
GENERAL MEETING  
held at 2pm, 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2016,  
Sevenoaks Community Centre**

Before opening the meeting, the Chairman paid tribute to **John Bonnett**, who had served Sevenoaks U3A since its inception in a numerous capacities and who, sadly, had died in May. He said Sevenoaks U3A was a better organization because of John. The meeting concurred with a round of applause.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** Apologies had been received from: Vicki and Geoff Joyce, Ann Matthews, Susan Henson, Maureen and Arthur Russ.

**2. Minutes of the AGM held 24th June 2015:** The Chairman reminded members that by approving the Minutes, the meeting would also be approving the EC proposal made at the 2015 AGM to adjust subs to £13 per head. The Minutes were approved by the meeting on a show of hands (proposed: Bob Ruffles, seconded: John Eastwood).

**3. Matters arising from the Minutes:** There were no matters arising.

**4. Trustees' Report:** The Chairman reminded the meeting that the Trustees' written report had been circulated to members with the June Newsletter, both paper and electronic versions. To this, he added only that Sevenoaks U3A has over 1000 members and that the EC spends a disproportionate amount of time finding volunteers to serve on committees. He encouraged those at the meeting to offer or to suggest others who might volunteer. He asked if there were any comments or questions arising from the Report. There being none, the Report was approved on a show of hands (proposed: Charles Hebert, seconded: Patrick Pascall).

**5. Treasurer's Report:** In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman read the Treasurer's Report and presented the Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2016. The Report and Accounts had been circulated to members with the June Newsletter. He made the following points in relation to the accounts: in line with policy, funds had been run down in these 12 months by approx. £2,000 to bring our funds in line with the Charities Commission recommendation. In answer to Sue Christy's query as to what this amount was, Jim said approx. 50% of annual turnover. Sue Christy pointed out that there was an error in the Social Committee element of the accounts. Jim said this had been noted after the accounts had gone to the printers; it had been corrected and re-sent to members who received the eNewsletter.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Richard Baxter for acting as Independent Examiner of the accounts.

There being no further questions, approval of the annual accounts was proposed by Wilna Roberts, seconded by Frank Matthews, and approved on a show of hands.

**6. Election of Secretary:** The Chairman reported that Jackie Bradforth had been nominated for this role; proposed Colin Butson, seconded Stephen Hale. Jackie's appointment was approved on a show of hands.

**7. Election of Membership Secretary:** The Chairman reported that Jill Davies had been nominated for this role; proposed Mike Davies, seconded Janet Boswell. Jill's appointment was approved on a show of hands.

**8. Chair of the Communications Committee:** there being no nomination for this post, Jim said it would be filled under section 6vii of the Constitution when a volunteer is found.

Jim thanked Judy Hebert (Secretary) and Linda Gilbert (Membership Secretary) for their work on the EC.

**9. Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Richard Baxter had agreed to act again as Independent Examiner; his appointment for one year was approved by the meeting.

The Chairman expressed his warm thanks to all members who work behind the scenes in unnamed roles, to all Group Organisers without whom U3A would not exist; and to members who were stepping down from committees: Sheelagh Mayes and Celia Smith (Web Team), Mike Bamforth (Computer Chair), Win Gutteridge (Science Chair), Ann Slater (Science Treasurer), Colin and Mary Butson who have been responsible for the distribution of the Newsletter for years, and David Gardner (Social Committee)

**10. Any other business:** David Simmons asked if voting members into EC roles could be done by post as many members are on holiday in June. Jim said the EC would discuss this.

Sue Christy asked if any analysis of membership of groups and other activities had been carried out with a view to identifying volunteers for vacant posts. Bob said he had initiated such an analysis when he became Chairman in 2011 but that it had not in the end yielded the hoped-for information. Jim said the EC would consider Sue's offer to undertake an analysis.

John Eastwood pointed out that there is no mechanism for members wanting to move from being group members or Group Organisers to higher administrative committees. Jim will report this point to the EC.

At the end of formal business, two Kent magistrates spoke on the topic *Magistrates in the Community*. They explained the way the courts work and included a case study for the audience to consider as to verdict and sentence.

106 members attended the AGM