

# **Minutes of the 32nd Annual General Meeting of Burgess Hill u3a, held on Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 11:15 in Cyprus Hall, Burgess Hill**

## **1. Welcome and Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Anthony, Jane Reid, Michael Duck, Karen Vander Willigen, Stephanie Swaysland, David and Jill Blackman and Ann Plyming.

## **2. The Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting held on 7 March 2024**

These had been previously circulated and copies were available at the meeting. They were proposed by Basil Larkin, seconded by Edward Handley and agreed.

## **3. Annual Report from the Chairman, Steve Furber**

The report had been previously circulated and copies were available at the meeting.

The Chairman reported the conclusion of a what he described as a very enjoyable 3 year term by thanking the board members and officers he had worked with during his term. In particular he mentioned Peter Mitchell who has served most recently as vice chair but in other roles too over a period of 12 years.

With around 600 members our u3a needs new ideas and new trustees to keep our recent momentum growing. Steve hoped that more new groups and social events will come along as we are in a very sound financial position and noted that most events covered their costs and also generated that satisfying buzz of conversation and laughter. But most of all it needs us all to get actively involved – Steve concluded with a formal thank you to all the hard-working volunteers. But most of all, thanks to all you members, he's had fun. **By the members, for the members!** were his closing words.

## **4. Treasurer's Report, Anthony Vander Willigen.**

The Treasurer summarised his report which had previously been circulated noting that our u3a is in a sound financial position with very adequate reserves. Income has exceeded expenditure and despite rising costs he expected the coming year to be of a similar nature.

## **5. Board of Trustees.**

A. Under the Terms of the Constitution the following Trustees currently occupying the 'Principal Officer' roles of Chair and Vice Chair must step down and are not eligible for re-election for 12 months: Steve Furber and Peter Mitchell.

B. Ann Gosling is also standing down after many years service.

C. Under the Terms of the Constitution the following Trustees will continue to serve and do not need to be re-elected: Carol Ashburner, David Grigg, Edward Handley, Paul Milton, Sue Moody, Elizabeth Taylor and Anthony Vander Willigen.

D. Under the Terms of the Constitution the following Trustees have stood for three years but are willing to be re-elected: Penny Benstead and Val Hoare. Their re-election was proposed by Margaret Carroll, seconded by Anthony Vander Willigen and they were re-elected unanimously.

E. Under the Terms of the Constitution Paul Woods has been duly nominated by Steve Furber and Seconded by Angela Wilkinson and is, therefore, eligible for election to the Board of Trustees. Paul Woods was elected unanimously.

**6. To appoint an Independent Examiner for the accounts year ending 31 January 2026.**

After many years our Independent Examiner has decided that she will retire from the role. The Treasurer hopes to be able to soon reach an agreement with Haywards Heath and Hurst Hassocks and Ditchling u3as to interchange with each other the role of independent examiner. Unless of course there was a suitably qualified u3a member present at the meeting? Unfortunately no-one volunteered their services.

**7. The Chairman** thanked everyone present for their attention today and for their help and support throughout the year, and declared the AGM closed.

Following the AGM there was our normal Monthly Meeting with a Presentation by Don McBeth, "The Telephone Exchange in your Pocket".