

ST AUSTELL u3a

AGM Minutes

Held via Zoom on 7th January 2021

Background

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic our AGM was delayed. We were also unable to meet in person as we usually do, so the Committee decision was to utilise a Postal Vote as this was the most inclusive option available to us. A copy of the Postal Vote Form is attached. 353 voting papers were issued. The ballot closed on 5th January 2021 at which time 241 voting papers had been returned, representing 68.27% of those issued. The voting forms were returned to the registered address of the charity. All remaining voting papers were treated as abstaining to vote

Apologies - no apologies were received

Attendees – there were 58 zoom log-ins for the meeting and an estimated 80 members attended

Chair's Report April 2019 to March 31st 2020

The chair's report (copy attached) was mailed out with the Postal Vote Form.

Pippa Boardman thanked all members for their participation and support throughout the year. The committee (many of whom who have now retired or stood down) were also thanked. Mention was made of the new events we had enjoyed during the year. Particular mention was made to our 20th u3a anniversary celebrations and the team who organised the events were given thanks for making the events so special. The events team leader and the group leaders were also thanked for their contribution and hard work during the year as were all the behind the scenes volunteers who kept everything running smoothly.

Mention was also made of our new up-to-date website, work relating to guidelines for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Data Protection and the installation of the defibrillator at the Arts Theatre in memory of Colin Brown, our former Vice Chair.

Member numbers had increased during the year and we were reminded of the dear friends we had lost.

Pippa concluded by reminding us that the closure of our year in March 2020 coincided with the first lockdown and the closure of many of our u3a activities and that we would expect a challenging year in 2020-2021, but nothing that we would not be able to handle.

Post Report Note

As Pippa will not be presenting the next report, she also thanked all the committee members who stood down outside the time her report covers, those who were now due to stand down, those who were staying on and also those who had joined the committee since April 2019.

Groups Leaders were also thanked for finding ways to keep their groups going and/or to stay in touch with their members.

The post report concluded by stating that the challenges we now face are not around membership numbers and group participation but about how we can best provide access for all, safe and inclusive ways of processing member contributions and how best to move forward without alienating anyone. A request was made for members who would like to lead groups and are prepared to make commitments to uphold the values and ethos that we all respect.

Treasurer's Report 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

The treasurer's report (copy attached) was also mailed out with the Postal Vote Form.

Chris Scott explained that he was seconded to the committee in the autumn of 2019 as our existing treasurer Dennis Rayner was due to stand down with effect from 31st March 2020. However due to the lockdown Chris was unable to visit Dennis to collect the paperwork and do the handover, so didn't take up the position until the end of June.

Chris stated that his report had been prepared from the information provided to him at the handover. He had checked all the accounts and was satisfied that they were a true record and the main accounts had been independently verified and checked by Ian Bleakley, prior to their submission to the Charity Commission.

The TAM account run by committee member Barbara Waddington had also been checked and verified by Ian Bleakley and submitted to the Charity Commission.

The main account showed a healthy balance at the start of the financial year of £17,164.63 and closed the year at £17,351.76. The TAM account started at £2,585.80 and closed showing a balance of £4,267.10.

The main accounts showed an anonymous donation from a member of £500.00, the donor was thanked for their contribution. A sum of £2,627.45 had been raised during the year, enabling us to purchase a defibrillator in memory of Colin Brown, our former Vice Chair who had sadly died in 2019. Member's subscriptions amounted to £8,355.25. These three amounts have been included in the total income of £18,939.11 for the financial year. Expenditure for the year was £18,751.98, to include £2,500.00 for the purchase of the defibrillator in February and £2,070.00 for the 20th anniversary celebration at the Britannia.

Chris concluded that having examined the accounts, all expenditures including the rent for the hire of the Arts Theatre were conducive to the running and management of St Austell u3a. Chris stated that the accounts were a true and fair record of income and expenditure. The accounts were proposed and seconded by two members prior to being added to the Postal Voting Form.

Post Report Note

Chris also added a post report note, stating that the committee had been working behind the scenes to ensure that St Austell u3a functioned in a safe environment. He also stated that the committee had been looking to the future to encompass technology and hopefully provide a better way of operating. The main areas of discussion are:

- Moving all financial activities to an electronic format
- Migrating St Austell u3a communications to the Beacon System

Chris stated that in our deliberations the committee have considered the benefits to all members and the committee rather than adopt a process that is available, but not functionally suited to our needs. Chris stated that the committee are proposing to adopt and migrate the two processes as we consider them to be of benefit and merit to all, but members were not to worry, there was no cut-off date to transfer these functions and the committee would work towards a seamless transitional process, which may take a few months, but equally may take several years to complete.

Chris stated that members would be informed at all stages of the transfer process and was aware that communication and training were of paramount importance.

Chris also informed the members that our funds had allowed us to extend membership for the forthcoming year (2021) at no cost to members and additionally we can absorb the cost of membership affiliation to the u3a. The cost of this will be in the region of £8,500.00 if we maintain the current membership level.

Postal Vote Results

All ballot papers were passed to be independently checked and verified by a 3rd party (Mrs Katharine White, a retired school teacher) who has no connection with St Austell u3a or the national body, on 6th January 2021.

The data was passed to Chris Scott who totalled the count, his wife Karen checked and confirmed Chris's figures. The anonymity of how members voted was maintained at all times and will remain that way.

Item 1 – Approval of Minutes from the Last AGM – 95.02% voted in favour

Item 2 – Approval of Accounts – 97.51% voted in favour

Item 3 – Proposed Change to the Constitution to allow for the continued operation of St Austell u3a during any emergency scenario such as we have experienced with COVID-19 – 97.10% voted in favour

Item 4 – Election of Honorary President - 97.51% voted in favour of electing Pippa Boardman as Honorary President

Item 5 – Election of Committee Members – all the proposed committee members were voted in – votes in favour ranged from 99.60% to 97.1%

Elected Committee Members for 2020/2021

The 2020/2021 committee are Chris Scott, Jenny Skipp, Jan Badger, Ann Smith, Sharon Wood, Chris Crane, Crystal Pearce and Lucinda Davison

Elected Honorary President 2020/2021

Pippa Boardman

Chris Scott thanked Pippa for all her hard work and for being an excellent Captain of our ship during her years as Chair.

Chris also thanked all the members who assisted with the preparation and delivery of the paperwork so that our AGM could go ahead, this was estimated to be in excess of 100 hours work.

Member's Questions

There was only one question – a member asked if there had been any questions written on the voting forms. Chris Scott replied that there had been two questions, one regarding the constitution and one regarding the accounts, both questions had been answered during the presentations delivered today.

AOB

There was no further business