

Higham and Rushden U3A

Minutes of the AGM held on 17 October 2018 at the Pemberton Centre, Rushden

1. Welcome

The chair Phil Grace welcomed the members present to the meeting.

2. Apologies

None received.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 18th of October 2017 had been distributed and posted on the website.

The members present were asked if they were a true record before being signed by the Chair.

Vote to accept the Minutes as a true record:

Carried unanimously

4. Matters Arising

No Matters Arising.

5. Chairman's Report Attached Appendix A

The Chair thanked Peter Turner for his excellent work on the newsletter and welcomed Maggie Morrison as the new Editor. He also welcomed Alan Devenish and Mike Wood to the Committee Mike with the task of taking over from Jean Mole when she retires as Treasurer next year. He then left the stage after welcoming Angela Mason as the new Chairman. She thanked Phil for his work over the past three years. A token of our appreciation was then presented.

Update on Pemberton news.

We been aware for the past year since Freedom Leisure took over the contract for the Pemberton that we would have to leave at some point. The Committee has spent many months looking at all the venues around Rushden and Higham and settled on the Windmill Club. And although not ideal it was the best we could find. However, it became apparent with the car parking issues this become unsuitable.

Conversations had taken place over the last month with Freedom Leisure and the Railway Society as to how we could best manage this. The Pemberton centre has agreed that we can stay in the main hall we currently occupy until January and then move to the other Games Hall behind reception until we find another venue. The conversations we had with the Railway Club and the Good Shed that is becoming a venue that we would be welcome there once they building work was complete. They were hoping to receive a grant from East Northants to

refurbish the roof and once this has been confirmed we should be able to move in the spring/early summer of 2019.. Angela asked that the members bear with is through this transition period but with a positive outcome and home to look forward to next years.

6. Treasurer's Report and adoption of the accounts

Jean Mole talked through the ACCOUNTS as per the attached **Hand out** and explained that we were in a financially sound position with a healthy balance in the account. The membership fee should remain the same. The Chair then asked for the accounts to be formally accepted.

Carried unanimously

7. Appointment of Independent Examiner

The Treasurer, Jean Mole, recommended that Mr Kevin Bird be appointed for the coming year.

Carried unanimously

8. Executive Officers

These will be approved and elected at the first committee meeting after the AGM by the other committee members

9. Election of the Committee.

Steve Evans
Mike Wood
Jean Mole
Jessica Walker
Jenny Carr
Angela Mason
Peter Wright
Denise Evans
Pat Bird
Alan Devenish

The Secretary had received all nomination papers - -correctly proposed and seconded by other U3A members.

All the committee were voted for unanimously by the Members present.

As Maggie Morrison and Jim Morrison were omitted from the list it was agreed they would be co opted at the next Committee meeting in November.

10. Special Resolution

Explained that this is a formality as requested with National U3A.

The charitable purpose of The U3A is:

- i. the advancement of education, and in particular the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work, by all means including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development, in Higham Ferrers, Rushden and the surrounding locality.

~~The charitable purposes of The U3A are:~~

- ~~ii. to advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age (being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility) residing in Higham Ferrers, Rushden and its surrounding locality.~~

~~In this constitution "people in their Third Age" has the meaning set out above.~~

Proposed Phil Grace
Seconded. Denise Evans

11. Any Other Matters

No matters were raised

12. The next AGM will be held on Wednesday 16 October 2019.

The meeting closed at 2.30

Higham and Rushden U3A Chairman's Report 2018

Last year I opened my 2017 report by noting that the Chinese name their years after animals but said that I couldn't think of an appropriate animal and ended up calling it our Year of Technology. I'm not sure what I would call this past year but I think we have had another good year and perhaps thankfully a fairly quiet one. Membership stands at 629 and reflects a slow but steady growth, month on month.

Once again we have enjoyed an interesting set of monthly meetings. Thank you to Pat and Joanna, who together took on the role of Speaker Secretary and ensured we continued to have a varied programme that appeals to as many members as possible. Our groups continue to flourish and whilst some fall by the wayside, new ones form. Group Leaders come and go, with new people stepping up to replace those that are looking to stand down. A big, big thank you to all Group Leaders without whom HandR would not be the lively, successful and vibrant organisation that it is. And last, but by no means least I want to say a big thanks you to our "unsung heroes":

- The Signing-in Team
- Delia and Meg on the Visitors/New Members table
- The Meet and Greet team
- The Tea Ladies

Your jobs are important to the smooth running of the monthly meeting. Your help is appreciated.

I am stepping down since my term of office is over and other retirements this year are Mike Mimms who is also standing since his term of office has run its course and Joanna Read-Thurner who has resigned for personal reasons. And a big thank you to Lynn, our Groups Coordinator who has done sterling work in the job but decided to stand down for what I am sure is a welcome and well-deserved break. I also want to make a special mention of Peter Turner... Peter has turned his hand to many things over the years he was on the Committee. He was Membership Secretary but most notably Newsletter Editor for more years than I can recall. Thank you Peter. I would like to welcome two new members who were recently co-opted onto the Committee, Mike Wood and Alan Devenish. Mike is joining with his future already mapped out - he will be shadowing Jean Mole, our Treasurer, with a view to taking over when Jean's term of office finishes next year. We're searching for a job for Alan - that shouldn't be difficult!

I have said this before but it is worth repeating. If there is anything that you would like to do, an activity you would like to enjoy, a skill you would like to master then speak out, let us know. Higham and Rushden U3A is **your** organisation. It is run by you for your benefit and enjoyment. The Committee is here to help and guide the running of the U3A but the ideas are best coming from you. And this year I will repeat my comment that it is you, the members, who ensure the continued success of HandR.

Perhaps the biggest matter that we have faced this year is the possible loss of these fantastic premises. The Pemberton Centre has been our home from Day One. It has served us well and I think I speak for all when I say that we would love to remain here. But that is not to be! We are still waiting to hear when the work will commence and Angela will give you an update in a moment.

All that remains is for me to say thank you to the Committee for all your help and support and a big thank you to you, the members. And as a new Chairman takes over I know I am passing you into a safe pair of hands.