

## **U3A FARNHAM**

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Sept 12 2011, 2-00pm at Farnham Maltings

**Present:** Officers & Committee: Bernard Whelan (Chair), Dr Rosemary Thomas (Vice Chair), Di Huddleston (Hon. Sec.), John Carter (Treasurer), Pamela Brown, David Cook, Tony Price, Ann Vickers, Janet Wall, Eileen Williams + 71 members.

**1. Apologies:** 15 members and 1 Committee member, Sarah Miller

### **2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM**

No amendments were requested; the Chairman signed them as a true record of the meeting.

### **3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2010 AGM**

There were none.

### **4. Chairman's Report**

The full report had been sent to members prior to the meeting. (See attached). Special tribute was paid to the valuable work of Group Leaders and the Committee, without whom this U3A would not function. Members were encouraged to volunteer to be a Group Leader and/or a Committee member.

### **5. Hon. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts for year ending 30 June 2011**

The Annual Accounts for the financial year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 were presented. (Copy attached). The Current Free Assets (reserves) were on the high side, but the Committee had decided not to change the membership fee for 2011. Finances were in a healthy condition. Mike Mitchell was thanked for examining the accounts.

That the accounts be adopted, proposed by Elizabeth Whelan, seconded by Sue Kelly was carried nem con.

### **6. Amendments of the Constitution**

2 proposed amendments had been circulated to members prior to the meeting (see attached). The Chairman explained the reasons for the amendments before a vote was taken.

That the amendments proposed by the Chairman, Bernard Whelan, seconded by Michael England be adopted was carried nem con.

### **7. Election of Officers and Committee Members**

Standing for election:

Officers: Hon. Secretary - Di Huddleston; Hon. Treasurer - John Carter.

Committee: Director of Studies & Programme Co-ordinator - Janet Wall; Project Organiser - Pamela Taylor; Groups' Treasurer - David Cook; Venues Secretary and Monthly Speakers - Eileen Williams; Social Secretary - Ann Vickers; Newsletter Editor - Pamela Brown; Membership Secretary - Patricia Thorns; Equipment Manager - Peter McErlain; Class Manager - Gordon Stirton.

The Chairman introduced the 3 new candidates - Patricia Thorns, Peter McErlain, Gordon Stirton.

That all candidates be elected 'en bloc' was proposed by Keith Parfitt, seconded by Jo Huddleston and carried unanimously.

The Chairman informed the meeting that no-one had come forward as nominee for the post of Chairman or Vice Chairman. He explained he was ineligible to stand for another year as Chairman, having served his term as an Officer, but he was willing to continue for another year and would be formally co-opted at the next Committee meeting, as allowed by the Constitution.

#### **8. Appointment of Hon. Examiner**

That Michael Mitchell continue as Hon. Examiner was proposed by Bernard Whelan, seconded by Michael England and carried nem con.

#### **9. Report on the National AGM**

The AGM had not yet taken place. Members were reminded that a report would be in the next issue of U3A News.

#### **10. Any Other Business**

**10.1** A request was made from the floor for a course on Practical Engineering to be added to the Programme. It was explained that this could only happen if a member with experience in the subject should volunteer to lead a Group.

**10.2** Pamela Taylor, Project Organiser, pointed out she would be retiring from the post at the end of this academic year, so a successor would be needed. She briefly outlined the duties and offered to discuss how she carries them out with anyone who might be interested.

**10.3** Members were reminded that there would be a Regional Study Day on 'Genetics' on Oct. 11 - details on the Notice board.

**10.4** The Chairman paid tribute to the Committee members who were standing down this year and thanked them specially for their friendliness, co-operation and cheerfulness. Sarah Miller had served her term of 3 years admirably as Membership Secretary. Rosemary Thomas (currently Vice Chairman) was retiring after many years of service to Farnham U3A in various capacities on and off the Committee. Tony Price, (currently Class Manager), was one of the longest serving members of Farnham U3A and his unswerving, tireless contribution to 'all things U3A', on and off Committee, was unique and memorable. The Committee had unanimously decided to confer on him Honorary Life Membership of Farnham U3A. This decision was received with great acclaim by all members present.

Tony spoke of his enjoyable 20 years with Farnham U3A and of what the U3A had done for him with its variety of classes in all disciplines and high standard of tuition as well as visits and the opportunity to meet many people and make lots of friends. He emphasised that he had 'got lots out of the U3A and it was good to have put something in'.

The AGM was concluded at 2-40pm and there followed an interesting talk about a Community project, 'Farnham Local Food', by Penney Hames. The Chairman thanked the speaker and all who attended before light refreshments were served.