

5. Treasurers Report. Chris Jones explained some items on the report which all present would have a copy. He drew attention to the substantial contributions from the efforts of Barbara Bonner on her bookstall and also to profits from the Coffee stall organised by Lily Bunner and her team at Horizon meetings. Thanks also to Bill Watkinson for his IT and to David Blanchflower who managed to retrieve half of the deposit from Liverpool Ferries following our cancellation of the Mersey Cruise last autumn due to low take up by members. Chris explained the increased expenditure was due to purchases of ipads, a copier and a Speaker Amplifier system. Also that rent of venues had increased. On a positive note income from subscriptions was higher.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR to the Treasurer.

Geoff Partington: with a turnover of £10,000 should we have a separate sheet for each Group? The treasurer stated that individual groups accounts are recorded and treated separately. Total proceeds are shown in the Balance sheet. The reserve of £20,000 had been held to provide cover for running expenses if required.

Sylvia Dillon: cannot accept the accounts because she stated that they should have been circulated some weeks before the AGM.

Chris replied that from 31 March to today 8 May is too short a period of time to accommodate this and that date of AGM would have to be later to achieve this.

Bernie Handford proposed that the accounts be accepted; seconded by

Chris proposed that Mr B Molloy be appointed as independent examiner of the accounts was accepted. He also proposed that the subscription for 2015-16 remain at £15 which was agreed and carried.

Dorothy stated that the retirement of the Treasurer would be discussed at the first Committee meeting and a successor appointed. She then expressed our thanks to him and all the committee members who are retiring today. Nominations had been received for the vacancies and were invited to face the audience to give their names and a brief resume of their U3A experience. Pauline Jones proposed that their nominations should be accepted this was seconded by

Questions from the floor

There was an enquiry as to why Chris is standing down. The Chairman explained that three members are standing down having completed their terms of office and that two have resigned. The committee consists of 15 members.

In answer to a question from Colin Gray regarding wording of para 6.1 of the Constitution which implies that Officers had not yet been elected Geoff Maitland (past chairman) explained that this applies only to the first AGM and that it will be amended.

Motion 1

Proposed by Margaret Wiechers that the Minutes of the committee meetings should be placed on the website so that members know what is going on. Denis Morley endorsed this but said they should also be on the U3A Notice Board. This motion was carried by a large majority.

Motion 2:

Sue Watkinson proposed that a Trustee body be incorporated within the Constitution. She commended the support and advice given already by existing Trustees and urged that we should move on with goodwill. Stan Bryan seconded it and a secret ballot took place resulting in the motion being carried by 170 to 51 votes.

Motion 3, put forward by Stan Bryan pointing out that the wishes of the membership about this important issue should be established and that we need a new Constitution in order to achieve this and urged that a working party including existing Trustees should construct a new Constitution and report to the AGM 2015. Central to its work should be the aims philosophy and ethos of our wonderful U3A.

By a show of hands this was carried by 132 votes with no dissentions.

The Vice-Chairman Bernie Handford expressed thanks to Dorothy for her hard work during a very demanding two years as Chairman. The members showed their appreciation by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers.

The meeting closed at 12.25.