u3a Bradford

**Bradford u3a Annual General Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday 20 September 2023**

**Minutes**

Initial draft 22 Sept 2023

The minutes will be approved and agreed at the next AGM 18 September 2024

**Present:** 46 members.

**Apologies:** 32 members

Ros Garside in the Chair welcomed everyone and said that there would be a general discussion at the end of the meeting. She noted that the meeting was quorate which must be 10% of the membership. We now have 275 members.

**Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

These were approved with no corrections.

**Matters Arising**

There were none.

**Chair's Report**

The Chair stated 2022 – 2023 was a year of consolidation and gave thanks to all the volunteers. Among a selection of successful events, she highlighted the 40th Anniversary Tea Party and the WestNet Treasure Hunt.

**Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Joan Spencer, introduced her report stating that we made a small deficit this year mainly due to paying two years' worth of capitation costs.

There were questions about the newsletter costs. It was explained that last year postage costs were separate and this year all costs associated with the newsletter were consolidated.

One member said that he was deliberately not online but was willing to pay the extra cost involved in receiving a posted newsletter. The Chair said we would consider this suggestion in January 2024 when we set the membership fee.

The same member asked what Capitation was. The Treasurer explained that this was the charge levied per head by our national body, the Third Age Trust.

**The Independent Examiner's Report**

The Independent Examiner, John Caswell, said that he had examined the accounts and found them satisfactory.

Cathryn Iliffe proposed that the Meeting accept the Accounts and Judy Shorney seconded this motion.

The accounts were accepted unanimously.

**Resolutions**

Changing the Terms of Office

The Business Secretary, Paul Webley, explained the reasons for the resolution which were to make the Terms of Office simpler, and to ensure that we had a sufficient number of members on the Committee. We currently have seven members, and the permitted number ranges from five to ten.

There were no questions. The Resolution had been agreed by the Committee. The Chair proposed the changes to our Terms of Office and the Business Secretary seconded. The resolution was put to the vote. It was passed unanimously.

Appointment of an Honorary President

The Chair explained that the Constitution allowed for the post of Honorary President. She had approached the retiring Chief Executive of Bradford District Metropolitan Council, Kersten England, to ask if she would consider applying for this position. She has many contacts and links to organisations locally and nationally, such as the Michael Young Foundation which promotes the wellbeing of older people so would be useful to the u3a.

One member asked if this was an honorary position and was told that it was.

Another member asked if she would become a member. She is not currently eligible for membership but will be when she retires at the end of October and she may choose to join. The Constitution is silent about whether she has to be a member. Her term of Office would be for a year.

Some members said they hadn't received this resolution in the papers. The Business Secretary said that there were many attachments to the email giving notice and the members may have missed this one.

The Chair said she had been a Chief Executive of both York and Bradford Councils for over eight years and received a CBE in 2019. She had worked in Education in Britain and also overseas so has a wealth of experience. She was very enthusiastic about becoming the Honorary President.

A member asked if any other people had been approached to which the Chair said no but there were few other people of her calibre that would be available.

Another member said she was still not clear what she would bring so could we review the position in a year. The Chair replied that she has many contacts and connections which she could introduce us to and agreed that the post was for a year.

One member said we should not be making political appointments but the Chair explained that her roles in the Council were non political.

The Resolution was put to the vote, proposed by the Chair and seconded by the Business Secretary having previously been agreed by the Committee.

For 40

Against 1

Abstentions 4

Kersten England is now our Honorary President.

**Election of Committee Members**

The Chair stated that we had received no nominations for a place on the Committee so asked the Meeting to allow nominations from the floor. There were no objections and Dave Marshall volunteered to be a Committee Member. This was approved by the Meeting.

**Any Other Business**

One member asked if there were any changes to the Committee in the year ahead. The Business Secretary said that Maureen Grace's period of office ends during the year. The Committee would coopt her until the next AGM when she would step down,

The Meeting agreed that John Caswell be appointed as the Independent Examiner for the coming year.

The Chair said that if members were interested, they could observe at a committee meeting to see what it is like. One member, Ros Smith, said she would be interested but was going away soon.

The formal meeting ended at 10.53am.