

POCKLINGTON & DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of the Extraordinary General Meeting

held at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 11th February 2016 at Pocklington Methodist Church

Welcome by the Chair

Pauline Carter, the Chair for 2015-16, welcomed 134 members to the Extraordinary General Meeting of Pocklington & District U3A and thanked the U3A Ukulele Group for entertaining everyone so well prior to the start of the meeting, saying that the group had only been going since the middle of last year and was proving a huge success, with the prospect of a second group starting shortly. She then called the meeting to order to proceed with the business in hand.

1. Apologies for absence

The Secretary stated that 20 formal apologies had been received.

2. Recommendation to Adopt the Revised Constitution

The Chair then addressed the meeting saying that, although all members had received the notice of the Extraordinary General Meeting together with a copy of the proposed revised Constitution, she would like to reiterate exactly what the purpose of the meeting was.

The Chair continued that, when the Committee felt that amendments were required to the Constitution, there was a procedure that had to be followed. Firstly, the Committee agreed on any clauses they wished to be amended and then a copy of the Constitution with proposed amendments was sent to the Third Age Trust for approval. Once cleared by The Third Age Trust, the Committee must ask the members of the U3A to approve the amendments.

She then went through the amendments that the Committee were recommending to the members:

- It was proposed that the President be reappointed annually, rather than this being a position without any time limit, with the same person allowed to serve in the position for a total of up to three years. The Chair said that the new clause would open the way for notable members of the U3A to be offered this prestigious role.
- The Chair stated that the Committee had felt for some time that, with increasing membership (members now stand at 840 with 29 new members in the last two months), the amount of work required of the Committee had increased considerably and more bodies were needed to spread the workload. With this in mind, it was proposed that the number of Non-Officer Committee members be increased to a maximum of 9 which, with the four officers and a Past Chair, made a total Committee of 14, as opposed to the current Committee of 10 + 2 co-options. It was also proposed to retain the ability to co-opt two more Committee members if needed who would serve for a specified period of time.
- The section in the Constitution on Terms of Office had been re-worded in order to make the length of time for which each person was elected and the number of times they could be re-elected very transparent and easily understood by everybody. A new clause had been added limiting total Committee service to six consecutive years to ensure that there was new blood.

- With regard to the conduct of General Meetings, it was proposed that the figure for a quorum at General Meetings be stated as 10% of the membership.

The Chair explained that the Charity Commission now stipulated that a quorum at a General Meeting be shown as a percentage of the membership, with the lowest acceptable percentage being 10%, meaning that the set number stated in the existing Constitution was no longer acceptable.

The Chair emphasised to the meeting that this change meant that members need to ensure that they attend the forthcoming Annual General Meeting on Thursday 21st April 2016 so that sufficient people were present to allow the business of the meeting to be conducted and the new Committee elected.

- Finally, the Chair advised that some of the general wording in the Constitution had been updated in line with the recommendations of The Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission but without materially changing the clauses.

The Chair then put to the meeting that the revised Constitution, with the amendments as outlined and shown in the copies provided, should be adopted.

The motion that the revised Constitution be adopted was proposed by Terry Rogers and seconded by Steve Fraser. A vote by show of hands confirmed that the vast majority were in favour.

The Chair then closed the Extraordinary General Meeting at 2.10 p.m. and introduced the speaker for the afternoon, Sue Hickson-Marsay, who gave a talk entitled "Storm Tossed Lady".

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R Carter
CHAIRMAN
11/02/2016
