

## FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – DATE: 18 MAY 2017

### MINUTES OF MEETING

#### ITEM

1. Welcome from the Steering Committee Chair - Gill Simon.

Gill welcomed 219 people to the Meeting, of which 205 were members, with 14 visitors. The Meeting was therefore quorate as the required number was 155.
2. Chairman's Report

In her Report, Gill listed the many achievements in the first year of existence including:

  - A membership approaching 800;
  - Over 50 Interest Groups;
  - Regular attendance at Monthly Meetings (MMs) of ~200 members;
  - An accolade from the Third Age Trust as being the most successful of all U3A start-ups;
  - An attractively modernised website;
  - Very well-supported Groups including MOTO, Outings & Travel and Theatre;
  - The electronic scanning of membership cards at MMs that had greatly speeded-up registration.

She finished by saying that we had had a fantastic year with lots of learning & fun and by inviting more members to join the active band of volunteers assisting the Committee and Interest Group Leaders.

There was warm applause from the audience for the very successful start of Mill Hill U3A.
3. Treasurer's Report – Sidney Baginsky

Sidney presented his report (see Annex 1 for the full statement). He showed the Receipts & Payments table from the full Financial Statements that had been made available to the membership on the website and of which paper copies were available for viewing at the Meeting. Mill Hill U3A was in a sound financial position such that we have been able to reduce the initial annual subscription fee of £30 pp. to £18 in year 2.

The Membership voted unanimously to accept the Financial Statements and the proposal to appoint an Examiner for the forthcoming year was agreed by the members.
4. Election of the Executive Committee – Richard Driscoll, Secretary

Richard explained that the entire membership had been invited to nominate for a position on the Executive Committee; only one position, that of Chair, had been

contested and so a ballot of all the members had been held.

At that point, a member, Sue Jackson, stated that, in the view of some members, the ballot had been unconstitutional because it had not been conducted at the AGM. Richard explained that the Steering Committee had examined the Constitution very carefully and had concluded that the ballot had not contravened the Constitution. He pointed out that the Steering Committee (SC) had concerns about the lack of clarity of the Constitution provided by the Third Age Trust and that the SC had decided that running a ballot for the position of Chair among the entire membership was more democratic than restricting it only to those attending the AGM; this decision was strongly supported by another member, Roger Kemp, with considerable applause from the audience,. The Secretary also remarked that in his and other Committee members' professional experience it was regarded as good practice to consult the entire membership and this we did.

Additionally, he told the meeting that the SC, if appointed at this AGM to become the Executive Committee, intended to propose to the Third Age Trust improvements to the Constitution and seek their permission to adopt revisions for the future.

After the discussion on the Constitution, the Secretary failed to announce the result of the ballot for Chair. The result was that Gill Simon was been elected with a clear majority of 27 votes. The full count of votes is shown in Annex 2.

After showing the audience slides of the elected Chair and re-volunteering members of the retiring SC, whose positions had not been contested, he moved to a vote for acceptance of the Committee for the coming year. The Members overwhelmingly voted to adopt the Executive Committee, with only 6 negative votes and no abstentions.

5. Changes to the Constitution

The Secretary explained that these can only be made with prior approval of the Third Age Trust and that the EC intended to seek this in the coming year.

6. Consideration of any Resolutions/Motions from the Membership.

No prior written items had been forthcoming.

7. Closure of the AGM

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and invited them to enjoy refreshments while awaiting this Month's guest Speaker Helen Fry, to talk about "Robert Maxwell's Mysterious Death".

## ANNEX 1

### Mill Hill U3A Treasurer's Report

AGM 18 May 2017

I am delighted to present the Treasurer's Report and Financial Statements for the period 4 January 2016 to 31 March 2017.

These have been available on our web site since last weekend.

The Financial Statements include the trustees' report, the independent examiner's report, receipts and payment account, balance sheet and notes to the accounts.

During the year we became a full member of the Third Age Trust, we registered with the Charity Commission and became a registered charity. We have also registered with HMRC so that we can claim gift aid.

Our receipts and payments account on general funds shows total receipts of £28,736, payments of £8,044 leaving a surplus in our reserves of £20,692. Note that receipts include £8,748 of subscription income for 2017/18. The general funds are represented by our fixed assets and the main bank account.

We have four groups which run their own separate sub-bank accounts. The main account is run by the treasurer and assistant treasurer and the group accounts are operated by the relevant group leaders. The group leaders are not permitted to allow their accounts to go into deficit. The treasurer and assistant treasurer have access to the group accounts for monitoring purposes and also to make payments in exceptional circumstances.

The group accounts have small surpluses which are carried forward. The outings group surplus includes monies received in advance and reimbursement due for payments made personally leaving an actual surplus of £164. The group leaders are permitted to make a small surplus to provide necessary funds where a shortfall might otherwise arise.

We are a "not for profit organisation" and no member is allowed to be paid for their services. Our Balance Sheet shows fixed assets at cost of £1,769. These are our projector, screen and trolley, display boards and barriers.

During the year a sub-committee looked into software developed by a group of people who are members of other U3A's. After assessing the system we decided to put our receipts and payments records onto the system. The detailed work was then carried out by our assistant treasurer, Victor Brilliant. I would like to record my appreciation for all the work he has carried out on this and other work on membership and financial matters.

It has been a pleasure working with the SC throughout the year and to see how MHU3A has grown from nothing to an organisation with around 800 members and 50 active groups.

The financial statements were approved by the SC on 5 May 2017 and I propose that these accounts be approved by the membership by a show of hands.

Sidney Baginsky  
Treasurer MHU3A  
18 May 2017

## ANNEX 2

### ELECTION OF CHAIR OF MILL HILL U3A

The result of the ballot is shown in the table:

Total votes cast	
Gill Simon	101
Valerie Levene	79
Invalid votes **	11
Net votes cast	
Gill Simon	98
Valerie Levene	71
Emailed votes	115
Posted paper votes	17
Paper votes filled-in at April MM and handed in.	48

\*\* These are all emailed votes where either the Membership No. was missing or the number was given as '2018'. The breakdown by candidate was: Simon – 3, Levene – 8