



## Minutes of the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of Haywards Heath and District u3a held at Cuckfield Baptist Church on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025

### Present:

Philip Metherell (PM)	Chairman
Paul Roberts (PR)	Hon. Secretary
Marcia Bassett (MB)	Treasurer
Eric Bassett (EB)	Assistant Treasurer
Anne Morrison (AM)	Venues Officer
Eric Whittaker (EW)	Membership Liaison Officer
Chris Roe (CR)	Beacon Administrator
Mike Fawcett (MF)	Group's Co-Ordinator
Kate Denyer (KD)	Membership Secretary
Mary Richard (MR)	Social Secretary
Royston White (RW)	Equipment Officer

Also present were 43 members, which together with 27 printed, and 51 on-line proxy votes gave a total of 121 which exceeded the 93 members required for a quorum (total membership at time of AGM, 921)

### **1. Welcome and Introductions**

On behalf of Chairman PM and the other members of the Committee, Hon. Secretary PR welcomed everyone present to the 35<sup>th</sup> AGM of HH u3a.

### **2. Apologies**

Apologies have been received from Committee members Amanda Trevitt and Peter Caddy.

Several other apologies were received from individual members including Maureen James who was leading the Saunters group on an outing that morning.

### **3. In Memoriam**

PR asked for a few moments silence to remember those members who had sadly died over the past year.

John Barlow	Betty Hill	Barbara Ingram
Christine Stoffell	Sarah Beeston	Bill Nicolle
Anthea McQueen	Alison Openshaw	Peter King
Keith Foxwell	Bob Campen	Jean Gorman
Richard Squibbs		

### **4. Approval of the minutes of the 34<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

PR said that the minutes of the previous year's AGM had been on our website for a considerable time and called for a vote for the motion that the minutes be approved.

Proposer: Deidre O'Brien

Seconder: Pam Wheeler

Apart from 2 on-line abstentions, the motion was approved unanimously

### **5. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

### **6. Chairman's Address**

PM said that it gave him great pleasure to present his Chairman's report on behalf of HH u3a's Committee.

It has been a very successful year thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the enthusiasm of our members.

Our membership has remained strong and reasonably constant at around 950. This stability reflects the continuing activity and sense of community within HH u3a.

Our wide range of interest groups is continuing to be the life-blood of our organisation. Many groups have flourished while other have adapted to changes in demand. Several new groups have been formed during the year broadening the scope of opportunity afforded to our members. Group leaders continue to give freely of their time and energy.

Our monthly meetings, mainly at the Methodist Church, are a highlight, enabling members to gather together and enjoy talks on a wide range of topics. . Speakers this year have been engaging and varied, and the opportunity to socialise before and after meetings continues to be greatly valued.

PM said that the ones that stick in his memory is the talk about the Knepp Widening Project and the Land Army talk.

Our outings programme has once again proved popular, with trips to places of cultural, historical, and social interest. These events, alongside occasional social gatherings, strengthen the friendships and camaraderie which are such a vital part of the u3a experience.

Major changes have been made to our use of electronic communications with a new website and increasing use of on-line forms. Our website attract around 500 visitors per month and is the platform on which members will get the most up-to-date information. The Groups Information Booklet is out-of-date almost from the moment that it's printed. PR's e-bulletins continue to provide up-to-date information for members. PM would like to thank our communications team for their work in keeping everyone connected and informed.

Our finances remain sound, with income and expenditure carefully managed. The subscription level has enabled us to cover our costs while maintaining reserves at a responsible level. We now have a card-reader device which is available to anyone who wishes to use it, as cash and cheques seem to dying.

PM said that it was interesting to note that 674 of our members elected to pay their membership renewal fee by BACS. There is no intention to raise the enrolment fee above the current £15 for the coming year.

Over the past year, there have been a few changes to the committee and PM wished to thank two people in particular – Carole Andrews, who has passed on her role as Social Secretary to MR and Susanne Roberts who has retired from her position as Membership Secretary, passing it over to KD.

Susanne joined the committee in October 2016, firstly becoming Refreshments Organiser before becoming Groups Co-Ordinator and then taking on the mantle of Membership Secretary in November 2019, never having missed a single committee meeting. In recognition of her years of service to HHu3a Susanne has been awarded 'Life Membership' Thanks also to David Gee who has passed the baton of Groups Co-Ordinator to MF.

PM wished to place on record his gratitude to the committee, group convenors, and all the volunteers who make our u3a possible. Without their commitment, energy, and imagination, none of our activities would take place.

The year ahead will bring opportunities and challenges. We will continue to look for ways to broaden our appeal, welcome new members, and encourage more to step forward as volunteers and group leaders. With nearly 1,000 members, our u3a remains a vibrant and thriving organisation.

Finally, PM thanked all our members for their support and participation.

He then reiterated our continued problem with finding group leaders, convenors and committee members.

## **7. Adoption of Accounts**

PR said that the Annual Report & Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 have been on our website for a number of weeks since being examined and approved in August.

Treasurer EB did not give a report but was available to answer any questions coming from the floor.

PR asked for a proposer for the motion that the Accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 be passed as having been received and approved.

Proposer: Mary Armour

Secunder: Jean Marshall

Apart from 1 on-line abstention, the motion was approved unanimously

## 8. Election of Committee members

PR said that he and PM were willing to continue in their respective roles as Chairman and Hon. Secretary.

Chris Roe, Anne Morrison, Peter Caddy, Amanda Trevitt, Eric Whittaker and Eric Bassett were also willing to continue as Committee members in their respective roles and are seeking re-election.

New Committee members, Kate Denyer, Mike Fawcett, Royston White, Marcia Bassett and Mary Richard are seeking election to the Committee in the roles of Membership Secretary, Group's Co-Ordinator, Equipment Officer, Treasurer and Social Secretary.

PR asked for a proposer for the motion that the Committee be elected *en masse*

Proposer: Janet Fleming

Seconder: Marguerite Simmons

Apart from 1 on-line abstention and 1 on-line 'against' vote, the motion was passed unanimously.

## 9. Comments from the floor

The fact that members present weren't asked to 'sign in' was raised. PR replied that, apart from forgetting, it was numbers that mattered not individual names.

PM asked if anyone would be prepared to take on the task of decorating our Christmas tree for the Cuckfield Christmas Tree festival.

Mary Richard & Marilyn Bradley have accepted this responsibility for a number of years and would like to hand it over.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 10.20 and was followed by a talk from Carole Andrews entitled 'The Piltdown Man'

Signed.....Date.....

Philip Metherell  
HHu3a Chairman