



Minutes of the 36th Annual General Meeting of Haywards Heath and District u3a held at Haywards Heath Methodist Church on Friday 2nd October 2026

Present:

Philip Methereell	Chairman
Paul Roberts	Hon. Secretary
Marcia Bassett	Assistant Treasurer
Eric Bassett	Treasurer
Chris Roe	Beacon Administrator
Mike Fawcett	Groups Co-Ordinator
Mary Richard	Social Secretary
Royston White	Equipment Officer
Pete Cogle	Membership Secretary
Peter Caddy	Webmaster
Amanda Trevitt	u3a Ambassador
Helen Thorne	Trustee
Celia Wheeler	Trustee

1. Welcome and Introductions

On behalf of Chairman Philip Methereell and the other members of the Committee, Hon. Secretary Paul Roberts welcomed everyone present to the 36th AGM of HH u3a.

Apart from the above listed Committee Members, also present were 63 members, which together with 21 printed, and 56 on-line proxy votes gave a

total of 140 which vastly exceeded the 94 members required for a quorum (total membership at time of AGM, 939)

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from Committee members Anne Morrison and Eric Whitaker.

Members of 'Stitch & Knit' and 'Britain's Historical Heritage' were meeting elsewhere at the time of the AGM and there were 8 individual apologies received.

3. In Memoriam

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

Lorna Ranger

Joan McCrossan

Sue Guy-Jones

Sheila Cox

Helen Dunlop

Maureen Welfare

Joy Oates

Anne Jones

4. Approval of the minutes of the 35th AGM held on 9th October 2024

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

Proposer: Jean Marshall

Seconder: Nick Morley

The motion was approved unanimously

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. To approve the proposed changes to the Constitution of HH u3a

The Secretary outlined the proposed changes to our Constitution, and the reason why they were necessary.

In essence, he had to approach the Third Age Trust to ask to be permitted to extend the time that an Officer or Trustee could remain in his or her position from 9 years to 12 years. This was because Eric Bassett, our Treasurer, had come to the end of his permitted time in office and no-one had volunteered to replace him – and without a Treasurer, HH u3a could not continue.

Fortunately, TAT agreed with this proposal.

He also said that all the details of the proposed changes had been on our website for some time for members to read.

The Secretary called for members to approve the motion to approve the Constitutional changes.

Proposer: Susanne Roberts

Secunder: Christina Bentley

The motion was approved unanimously.

7. Chairman's Address

Chairman Philip Metherell thanked the assembled members who had made the effort to attend the AGM.

He said that we have had a very successful year thanks to everyone pulling together.

He added that membership numbers and the variety of events we were able to put on was back to pre-Covid levels.

The Chairman indicated the result of a survey carried out by the TAT of 10,000 u3a members. It showed that u3a generally, is providing an excellent service for its members. The statistic that surprised him was that only 45% said that membership of u3a had reduced feelings of loneliness and isolation.

He expected that some of those who have not yet renewed, will do so and together with new members, at around 18 per month, will raise our number back up to around 1,000. Word-of-mouth seems to be how most new members hear of us.

The Chairman explained that our general movement towards a more electronic existence is easier to administer and manage and is also a lot cheaper and can be updated as and when required which is why we no longer post membership cards and Group information booklets to all our members.

The savings made have been passed on to the membership by way of free entry to our social events.

We currently have 80 interest groups with new arrivals 'Strength & Balance', 'Rock, Pop & Soul', 'Opera Appreciation' and 'Film Club'. There is also a 'Yoga' group which is in the process of being formed and has attracted much interest. The Chairman mentioned some of the talks and other social events that had taken place over the last year and exhorted members to do rather better than 3rd place out of 3 in the next inter u3a quiz!

The methods of communication from the committee to the membership were mentioned:

- a) the Bulletin, written by Paul Roberts
- b) the website, regularly updated by both Philip Metherell and Peter Caddy
- c) Beacon, our on-line administrative and management system, managed by Chris Roe.

The Chairman touched on the fact that, although our current bank balance is very healthy, we have had a lot of money coming in from re-enrolment and hall-hire fees, but soon there will be a lot of money going out of our account.

He exhorted members to take on leadership roles as the reason most of the groups that have ceased meeting has been lack of a leader, not falling membership.

He expressed his gratitude to the Committee members and to the membership in general for all the assistance he has received during the past year.

8. Treasurer's report and adoption of Accounts

The Secretary said that both the accounts and notes appertaining to the accounts have been on the website for several weeks and hard copies have been produced for members attending the AGM.

There being no questions or comments from the members, the motion that the accounts for the year ending 31st July 2026 be passed as having been received and approved was proposed. He said that the accounts have been independently examined and approved.

Proposer: Nick Morley

Seconder: Linda Watson

The motion was carried unanimously.

9. Election of Committee members

The Secretary introduced each committee member (see list of committee members present), together with a brief outline of their area of responsibility. He said that all committee members were willing to continue in their present roles.

He also introduced 3 new committee members, Pete Cogle, who is now our Membership Secretary, Helen Thorne and Celia Wheeler.

The motion that the committee be elected/re-elected en-masse was proposed.

Proposer: Kate Denyer

Seconder: Barbara Baldwin

The motion was carried unanimously.

10. Comments from the floor

A Question was asked if there was an archive of past talks given to groups that other groups could access.

The Chairman said that although we don't have such an archive, it sounded like a good idea to have one. He thought that he might present it as an idea to our neighbouring Burgess Hill, and Hurst, Hassocks & Ditchling u3as.

A question from Nick Lake was about how the committee intend to use the extra monies which have accrued since last year. The Secretary said that approx. £3,000 of that swelling of funds was down to the savings from not posting the GIB and membership cards to every member, and some of that would be used up giving free entry and refreshments at our social events.

The Treasurer reiterated the fact that the Chairman made about our funds being at their maximum but from now on, monies would be leaving our account. The Secretary stated that it is a Charity Commission requirement that every charity maintains a minimum of 6 months running costs in reserve.

Royston White, Equipment officer, said that old and broken equipment had to be replaced for example we had to purchase 3 laptops last year.

Nick Lake also asked how many Burgess Hill, and Hurst Hassocks & Ditchling u3a members attended our groups. Membership Secretary, Pete Cogle said that it was 25.

There was a question posed about how the 88 members who have not renewed are contacted. The Membership Secretary said that only 15 of those non-renewers don't have email addresses and have been sent letters or have been telephoned, and the others have been contacted several times.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.50pm and our speaker Mark Goldstein then gave a fascinating and very interesting talk on how to ensure that our various assets go to where we want them to go, upon our eventual death.

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

Philip Methereil
HHu3a Chairman