

Dacorum U3A

Minutes of the 34th Annual General Meeting held on Monday 5th August 2024
at the Boxmoor Playhouse, St John's Road, Hemel Hempstead.

Attendance

There were 94 members present, and a further 10 on Zoom. Proxy votes were submitted by 153 members (152 on-line and 1 postal) for the motions and election of trustees and officers.

Those present included the following trustees:

Jane Campbell	Vice-Chair
Peter Marshall	Treasurer
Ellen Duffy	Secretary
John Dodkins	Trustee (Beacon Admin and Digest Editor)
Lee Pace	Trustee (Groups Secretary and Speaker Secretary)
Henry Wallis	Trustee (standing to be Treasurer)
Carolyn Wallis	Trustee (standing to be Chair)

Also present were the following Committee associate members:

Anne Menzies	Beacon & Wed Admin
Jean Sniders	Membership secretary
Terry Thirwell	Equipment officer & Web Admin

Zoom attendees included

Alan Osborn	CAN and Group News
Mike Sapsard	Web Admin
Margaret Taylor	Hall bookings

1. Welcome

Jane Campbell welcomed all those members attending the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Judy Baldwin	Rena Prindiville
Lindsay Biggin	Jennifer Thorne
Anne Cox	Heather Warden
Natalie Done	John Coe
Michael Heylin	

3. Approval of the minutes of the 33rd AGM held on 7th August 2023

- 3.1 There were no comments on the minutes of the previous AGM.
- 3.2 The motion to approve the minutes had the following votes:
Votes: 126 in favour and 27 abstentions.
- 3.3 The minutes were therefore approved by a majority vote.

4. Vice-Chair's Report

- 4.1 Jane said that the last year has been difficult for the Committee. Our chair resigned for personal reasons and we have shared the Chair role between us to keep your

u3a running. We had relatively few trustees and a member of a previous committee, Harvey Collyer was coopted, however, he has now served as a trustee for nine years - the maximum allowed. Our treasurer was coming to the end of his three-year term and without a successor we would have been in grave danger of closing and had contacted Third Age Trust for advice. Luckily, a member came forward to become Treasurer and is standing for election, so that we can continue.

- 4.2 The Committee needs more trustees, as some trustees fulfil two roles and previous Committee members as Associates, have taken on roles that are vital to keep our u3a running. We also know that there are going to be vacancies in twelve months (for instance, Ellen must stand down as Secretary at the next AGM) and other key roles (for example Minute Secretary as Lorna is standing down after 15 years) need replacing or deputies to support people. The more who contribute the more the Committee - trustees and associate members - can do to maintain our organisation and adapt as society changes (eg fewer and fewer people using cash) and be more responsive to members and proactive about doing things.
- 4.3 Our membership now stands at 1,220. We have 79 Groups. New groups are being planned although others may close. I must thank all the coordinators for the time spent planning and organising their groups - some for many years.
- 4.4 Our plans include visiting various local events to promote our work. We successfully attended the fete at Leverstock Green recently and continue to recruit new members.
- 4.5 The Committee has discussed how co-ordinators could collect money at meetings. We have had some helpful suggestions from Co-ordinators and others that will be carefully considered to ensure we meet the needs of all our members when reaching a decision. Many thanks to those who have contacted us.
- 4.6 Thanks also to those group members who have helped with tea and coffee at the monthly meetings. It is likely that your group will only be asked every 5 years.
- 4.7 Finally, I would like to thank our out-going treasurer, Peter Marshall, for his hard work over the last difficult years. A good treasurer is essential for any organisation.

5. Treasurer's Report

- 5.1 Peter Marshall said that this was his farewell speech as he hands over to Henry Wallis, as treasurer. The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2024 have been approved by the Committee and signed by the Vice Chair and Secretary. The Book Examiner gave us a clean bill of health. She noted that the asset register was not up to date, but it is now.
- 5.2 The accounts show a deficit of £8,583 and reserves of around £17,650. We usually think of deficits as bad news. But since our financial plan is to reduce the reserves to about £10,000 this deficit was expected and the finances are under control. Our budget for 2024-25 should take our reserves close to the £10,000 reserves level set by the Committee, which means that the belt loosening of the past two years will need to be reversed.
- 5.3 Peter thanked his fellow Trustees, members of the Committee and Associates for their companionship and support. In particular, he also thanked Henry Wallis for offering to take on the Treasurer role, so that he can confidently stand down.
- 5.4 Peter also added a special thank you to the group coordinators and how much they do and how important they are to u3a Dacorum. He wished Dacorum u3a every success in the future.

6. Groups Secretary's Report

- 6.1 Lee Pace reported that there were now 79 groups. Some groups have closed this year, such as Computer Support, Playing Ancient Music and Short-Day Trips. The day trips were very popular but a new coordinator and possibly an assistant will be required. Lee thanked Lionel Howard who had organised the Short-Day Trips for many years.

7. Amendment to Constitution

- 7.1 There was a motion to amend the constitution. It read:

To amend the Constitution at clause 16(8) by removing 'or be an ordinary (non-officer) trustee'.

Proposer Ellen Duffy Seconder Jane Campbell

- 7.2 Ellen explained that the effect of this amendment would allow an ordinary trustee to be a trustee and hold a particular post for more than three years. It would not apply to officers – that is the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer or Secretary, who could only hold the same post for up to three years. Officers and Trustees may serve for no more than nine years in total. There were no questions about the motion.
- 7.3 The votes were: 145 in favour; 3 against and 5 abstain. The amendment was therefore carried.

8. Appointment of Book Examiner

- 8.1 Appointment of Jane Seymour as Book Examiner for the 2024-25 financial year was proposed by Peter Marshall and seconded by Ellen Duffy. There were 152 votes in favour and 1 abstention. Therefore her appointment was agreed.

9. Election of new Committee Members 2021-2022

- 9.1 The following were elected as officers or trustees:

Post	Name	Yes	No	abstain
Chair	Carolyn Wallis	143	0	5
Vice Chair	Jane Campbell	146	0	2
Treasurer	Henry Wallis	144	0	4
Secretary	Ellen Duffy	145	0	3
Trustee	Lee Pace	145	0	3
Trustee	John Dodkins	145	0	3
Trustee –	John Coe	143	0	5

10. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

The AGM was formally ended at 10.53 am.