**Minutes of the Edenbridge U3A Annual General Meeting**

**held at Crockham Hill, 2nd August 2016**

**1.** **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Angela Hill-Wiseman, Molly Ward, Margaret and Laurie Hammond, Jan Hart and Debbie Collins.

**2. Chairman’s Report**

Mike welcomed everyone to the 3rd Annual General Meeting of Edenbridge U3A and thanked them for coming along. He also expressed his appreciation to Committee Members not only for the support given to him personally but for all they had done and are still doing for our U3A during the year. Membership had increased from 160 to just under 220 with 54 groups running and access to the groups in Westerham also available. He mentioned that he had very much enjoyed his membership of the London Studies Group – particularly the visit to the Canary Docks Museum - the Wine Appreciation Society and running the Primary Science Group.

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 28th July 2015**

Members were asked to approve these Minutes – proposed by Mike Collins, seconded by Christine Byrne and carried.

**4. U3A Constitution – Clause 7**

It was recommended that Option 1 of Clause 7 regarding the Executive Committee and Officers be adopted. Proposed by Brian Swift, seconded by Isobel Lanyon and carried.

**5. Treasurer’s Report and Accounts for the year 2015/2016**

The accounts had been put on the website and further copies were available at the meeting. Stephen summarised these accounts. They show a healthy balance – £2,361 - a good place to be in case of the need for a contingency plan. The accounts had been checked and approved by Graham Brown. Approval of the acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Peter Welch, seconded by Jill Crawley and carried. A full audit is not required and Graham Brown has agreed to continue to check and approve the accounts in future.

**6. Nominations for Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary**

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, had been received in respect of Mike Collins, as Chairman, Molly Ward as Vice-Chairman, Sylvia Greenwood as Treasurer and Michele Harrison as Secretary to serve for 2016/2017. As the nominations included Mike Collins, Colin Fairman took the Chair for the vote and proposed the nominations be accepted. These were duly seconded and carried and the Chairman resumed his place.

**7. Nominations for the remaining Executive Committee Members**

Nominations, duly proposed and seconded, had been received in respect of the remaining Executive Committee places for 2016/2017 – Estelle Baring, Christine Byrne, Stephen Harding, Lynn Swift, Brian Swift, Molly Ward and Cathy Booth. (Cathy will work with Stephen on the Web Site.) It was confirmed that the total number on the Committee does not exceed that permitted by the Constitution. These nominations were proposed by Helena Welch, seconded by Pam Dotter and carried.

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**8. Annual Subscriptions**

It was recommended that the annual subscription should remain the same as this year, i.e. £20 for a single subscription and £35 for a couple – proposed by Caryl Hayes, seconded by Janet Slack and carried.

**9. Independent Financial Examiner**

It was also recommended that Graham Brown be re-appointed as Financial Examiner – proposed by Peter Welch, seconded by Brian Swift and carried.

**10. Any Other Business**

(a) Isobel Lanyon asked the Committee if subscription payments could be paid using BACS. Sylvia replied that, at the moment, the banks seemed loath to go down this road for charities. Efforts have been made to achieve this but, to date, they have been unsuccessful. As banking practices are changing this is something the committee will keep an eye on.

(b) **Dates for Diaries:**

27th September, 2016 Guest Speaker: Cathy Hicks

25th October, 2016 “ Kev Re**y**nolds

29th November, 2016 “ Tom Wray

13th December. 2016 Christmas Monthly Meeting

(c) **Food for Thought:**

Stephen informed the meeting of an interesting fact – the Edenbridge U3A web site received 8,000 “hits” from Russia and just 149 “hits” from Edenbridge. He encouraged members to look at the web site and make use of it – it is well worth looking at. Speakers are booked up to April next year, so members can note well in advance who our guest speakers will be. He would be very pleased to receive any photographs that he can load onto the web site and reassures us that he does his best to avoid any copyright problems.

**11. Chairman’s Moment:**

In winding up the meeting before tea, the chairman entertained the assembled members with a light-hearted look at signs translated into “English”. He then took everyone through a visual presentation of the Fallas Festival in Valencia to celebrate Saint Joseph, (San Jose), the patron saint of Carpenters in Spain. It is known locally as the **“*Crazy Festival!”*** , is held over 4 days from the 15th to the 19th of March every year and is full of noisy explosions and fire with incredible creations (Fallas) constructed and erected throughout the city on roundabouts, road junctions and anywhere where there is some space. On the night of the 19th these beautiful effigies that have taken the last year to construct are all burnt! A truly amazing spectacle.

He then thanked everyone for attending and looked forward to catching up again at the next members’ meeting in September.