

Towcester u3a 2022 AGM notes and voting results.

The 2022 AGM of Towcester u3a was a hybrid event. Document distribution and voting took place online (or by post for those without access to the internet). A face-to-face meeting, with limited numbers, was held on 25th May 2022. The voting results were announced at the meeting, posted online, and included in the monthly bulletin. A total of 161 votes were cast online and 2 were sent by email or post. The voting results were as follows:

1. Approval of the Minutes of 2021 AGM
This was carried by 110 votes to 0, with 53 abstentions because they did not attend.

2. Approval of the Trustees Report for 2021/22
This was carried by 158 votes to 0, with 5 abstentions.

3. Approval of the Financial Report for the year ended 28th February 2022
This was carried by 157 votes to 1, with 5 abstentions.
The following question were submitted and answered by Carol Lucas:

Q: I can't understand why room hire was so much greater in year ending in 2022 than in 2021

*A: In year 20/21 we hired a room 3 times
In year 21/22 we hired a room 5 times and the cost of storing our equipment at Towcesterians increased.*

4. Approval of the appointment of Essendon Accounts and Tax Ltd. as external examiners for 2022/23.
This was carried by 156 votes to 0, with 7 abstentions.

5. Approval of the membership subscription being increase to £20 for the year 2023/24
This was carried by 138 votes to 17, with 8 abstentions.
The following questions were submitted and answered by Carol Lucas:

Q: As I understand it the group finances are really healthy so I am puzzled as to why the subscription needs to be increased.

Q: Please set out the increase justification.

Q: Our current assets are nearly £14,000. How can we justify increasing our annual subscription by 25%? How is this explained or justified? Where is the need to keep increasing the assets? It is an unhealthy position to keep

having such excesses. If anything, the subscription should be reduced or kept at the currently level. How would this figure be justified if the Charity Commission should ask?

Q: In view of inflation and pensions frozen benefits, I think a small rise to £18 p.a. until the 'fuel' crisis is resolved.

A: It sounds as if the question is historical which indeed our assets are. We had similar assets when I became chair 3 years ago. However, the situation is now very different. We were able to reduce subscriptions last year to £10 and this year's subscription is the pre-pandemic subscription of £16.

The increase in subscriptions from 2023 is to cover inflation on costs such as room hire and speaker costs. In the last few months, we have seen unprecedented rises in our outgoings. Subscriptions to Third Age Trust, room hire, speaker costs, transport costs etc., etc.

The committee are taking a cautious approach. With inflation currently approaching 10%, the current subscription of £16 (which was set a year ago) may not be sufficient to cover costs in the coming year, with any shortfall coming out of our cash reserve. It's not possible to predict what inflation will be in 2023/24 but we estimate that an increase to £20 may only just be enough to cover costs, with any shortfall again coming out of our cash reserve. Other u3a's in the region have been charging £20 for some time, and there are others that have been charging less than us and are now in financial difficulties. We are extremely grateful to Terry Goldfinch whose cautious but firm approach has guided us through these difficult times.

6. Election of Committee Members for 2022/23

As there were only 8 nominations and the maximum number of committee members is 12, this election was dealt with as a single vote which was carried by 154 votes to 0, with 9 abstentions.

The elected committee members were:

Alison Foxton, Terry Goldfinch, Deborah Heaphy, David Parker, Anne Parkes, Stephen Porter Jill Stewart, and Stephen Warden.

7. The following comments were submitted either online or in person at the meeting:

Just a huge Thank you for all you do and the way you kept Towcester U3A going during lockdown/covid

Just thanks for all their hard work in keeping the Towcester U3a running.

Many thanks

Please keep up the good work. Thank you

Thank you all so much for your hard work that makes Towcester u3a such an enjoyable and worthwhile group

Very appreciative of how the Committee members and Group Leaders have kept Towcester U3A going, especially through such a very difficult 2 years plus.

My apologies for not attending I will be on holiday

Please are you still running your minibus?., or preferably hold meetings in central Towcester. I do not have a car. please would you consider using Northampton rail station and coaches from Towcester town? for trips out please. I enjoyed the Church visiting groups. Thank you, someone kindly took me to Mears Ashby Church, I enjoyed it very much. Thank you.

8. *Carol Lucas thanked all the members who voted online and those who attended the meeting. As there was no other business, Carol declared the meeting closed.*