

## HARPENDEN LEARNING FOR LEISURE

Minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual General Meeting, held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April at the Plough & Harrow, Southdown Rd, Harpenden AL5 1PR.

Present: Francis Dowley, Secretary and Chairman; Julie Loughlin (Minutes), Sarah Webster, Elaine O'Brien, Roger Fox, Bob Spence. Class Secretaries: Denis Cooke Margaret Creighton, Penny Turnbull, Shirley Davey.

1. Francis Dowley, Chairman & Secretary, welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies had been received from: Nick Mourant, John Smith, John Wassell, Peter Loveland.
2. The Chairman & Secretary read his report to the meeting (circulated previously) and thanked the Committee for their support and hard work over the year.
3. The Treasurers report was presented (circulated previously) and discussed, with no questions arising from the floor.
4. Elaine O'Brien, Enroller for HLfL presented her report to the meeting (circulated previously) and added that she had particularly enjoyed the interaction with students. She is now preparing for the autumn term. Bob Spence queried the process for online enrolment and payment, which was discussed. It was felt that the website instructions may need to be reviewed to make the procedure clearer. ACTION: J SMITH. Elaine assured the meeting that the enrolment process worked smoothly behind the scenes and payments were cross-checked by Nick Mourant, Treasurer.

There was then a general discussion about the change in procedures from the former organisation, WEA. Bob Spence said that Harpenden WEA was founded in 1937 and sadly the WEA organisation had changed over time. The Chairman acknowledged the hard work of the WEA team Bob Spence, Denis Cooke, Peter Loveland and also Roger Hughes, in setting up Harpenden Learning for Leisure.

The Chairman added that at present, HLfL was financially secure. However, there may come a time when the Harpenden Trust could be approached for a financial subsidy or support should the need arise. He also explained that some courses with low enrolment numbers are subsidised by the more popular courses in order to continue to offer a broad programme.

Penny Turnbull raised the issue of building awareness of HLfL, which Sarah Webster who looks after publicity, was able to answer. The stand at the Seniors Fair was very successful and an opportunity to have a gazebo on the High Street concourse area will be explored. ACTION: S WEBSTER. The first e-mailing to students will be in May to encourage enrolment. ACTION: J SMITH. Plans for the publicity with local organisations are in place including: Harpenden Building Society, churches and libraries, Trust newsletter, Local History society, Arts Society and also in social media such as Next Door and Harpenden Directory. Full details of all the forthcoming courses are on the website.

There was a general discussion and update on the availability and usage of the current venues, which are often in demand by other groups and events.

5. Election of Officers. Francis Dowley is to continue as Chair and Secretary, proposed by Nick Mourant and Julie Loughlin, with agreement from the floor.

Nick Mourant is to continue as Treasurer, proposed by Francis Dowley and Sarah Webster, with agreement from the floor.

The other committee members: Sarah Webster, Roger Fox, John Smith, John Wassell, Julie Loughlin, Elaine O'Brien are to continue, as proposed by Francis Dowley and Nick Mourant with agreement from the floor.

Francis thanked Bob Spence and Denis Cooke for their work in setting up HLfL and presented them each with a book token. A book token will be posted to Peter Loveland. ACTION: F DOWLEY

There was a general informal discussion about HLfL and the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

JL.  
26.4.2023