

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Basingstoke – Old Basing U3A held at the Elizabeth Hall, Hook at 2.00 pm on Wednesday 12th July 2018**

Margaret Hayes [MH - Chair] opened the AGM, welcoming everyone and thanking them for their support in attending.

Apologies for late start [2:10], enabling the quorum minimum of 120 to be met.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies have been received from 18 members:

Peter & Caroline Hall, Pat Smith, Angela Powell, Jim Johnston, Keith Hewitt, John & Sue Richards, Jacqueline Giles, Edward Mitchell, Joan Carnell, Tony and Sandie Tapping, Phil and Bronwyn Males, Sue Jordon, Jean Young, Joan Moseley

### **Minutes of AGM held on 12th July 2017**

The minutes of the last AGM were agreed and signed by the Chair. There were no matters arising.

### **Chair Annual Report**

Copies were available to all members present and it is also on file.

The report will also be sent with the meeting general notes to all members via Beacon.

#### Key points made:

- Second year as Chair and looking forward to the 20th anniversary in 2019.
  
- Key changes since 1999: rise in membership, technology changes and most recently the introduction of the U3A Beacon database system for communications to members, and management of Groups and Membership [tracking and renewals].
  
- Thanks and appreciation to Committee members and Group Leaders for their volunteered time and work.
- Recent loss of long serving Group leaders and current difficulties in finding replacements. Regrettably some groups have had to close.
  
- Reminder of the self-help and volunteer ethos, with a call for volunteers from members to fill vacant Group Leader positions, start a new Group or to be part of the Committee [two Committee positions unfilled]

### **Annual Accounts**

As copies of the Annual accounts and Treasurer's Report had been circulated to members at the AGM start, the Treasurer, Ian Stimpson [IS] did not go through the detail after checking that everyone had ready it prior to the start of the meeting.

IS invited questions - these, with his responses, were:

- What was reduction in insurance? - IS: the U3A Trust have taken on insurance cover.
- What was the reason for social events jump to £11,000? IS: previously group costs were managed at Group Level by the Group Leaders.

Due to new Charity Commission regulations [to ensure transparency & traceability], all costs now have to be managed by the Treasurer and included in the accounts.

### **Acceptance of Accounts: proposed by Harvey Wallace and seconded by Joyce Cook**

This was done by a show of hands and was unanimous.

A vote of thanks proposed by Joan Mosely from the floor in appreciation of the diligence and extra work taken on by IS which had been created by these new National Level directives.

Members clapped long and hard, demonstrating genuine appreciation.

## **Group Organiser Report:**

Joan Carnell, the Group Organiser sent her apologies.  
Chair MH read her prepared report on her behalf.

Key points were:

- 3 new Groups starting September 2018. Latin for Beginners, Healthy Eating and Classical Studies.
- sadly, the Living History Group had folded due to lack of interest
- Gardening Appreciation Group can only continue with curtailed events due to the retirement of the long-standing leadership of Jean & Roger Perks  
Joyce Cook will support some outings as part of the Excursion Group
- Reminder - Group Leader should not have to do ALL the work  
The U3A ethos is "for the members, by the members. '

Call for new Groups particularly on the academic side.

## **Election of Committee**

MH read out the Proposed Committee Members

Mel McMahon will be stepping down as Membership Secretary.

MH gave thanks to Mel for her hard work and support, and in appreciation presented a gift.

MH reminded members that a key Committee position, that of Programme Secretary, remains vacant. The programme for next year has already been arranged and Linda is willing to assist, but if this position remains vacant into 2019, the Monthly Meetings will cease at the start of the Academic Year September 2019.

MH then detailed the changes and proposed re-election of Committee members for the 2018/19 Academic year.:

### Committee Member Changes:

- Membership Secretary - Linda Wain.
- Members Representative - now vacated with Marie White's appointment as Vice Chair.
- Programme Secretary: now vacant due to Linda Wain's appointment as Membership Secretary.

### Re-election of current Committee Member positions:

Chair - Margaret Hayes  
Vice Chair - Marie White  
Treasurer - Ian Stimpson  
Business Secretary - Barbara Robson  
Group Organiser - Joan Carnell  
Database Manager - Liz Horner  
Website / Asset Manager - Harvey Wallace  
Members Representative - Vee Holliday

All nominations were proposed on block:

Proposed by Max Smart and seconded by Anne Dyson

Members gave a unanimously vote of approval by a show of hands.

## **Election of Independent Examiner**

The motion to retain our appointed Independent Examiner, Hilary O'Connell was put to the membership by the Treasurer IS, drawing attention to Hilary's experience and her three-year tenure in his role. Ian proposal was seconded by Harvey Wallace and unanimously supported by the floor.

MH gave notice of IS's desire to retire from the role of Treasurer.

. She noted that he had stayed for an extra year to help support the set-up and testing of the electronic payment system.

This was now in place and will be used for the first time for the 2018/19 member renewals., with the option for members to pay by cheque still available.

Ian will be stepping down as Treasurer after the end of the 2019 Academic year and needs a replacement for the 2019-20 Academic year.

MH noted that whilst Beacon reduces the administration, this role needs to be filled by a member with some finance accounts experience.

### **Proposed updated Objective Clause [2/1] of Constitution**

The Objects Clause in our Basingstoke-Old Basing University of the Third Age (U3A)] constitution needs to be changed from:

"A To promote opportunities for the pleasure and enjoyment of self-directed learning by the members for the members, and open to all in their third age, at a period in life for those no longer in full-time employment.

B To provide facilities for all activities with the object of improving the conditions of life for the above persons in the interests of their wellbeing."

#### ***To:***

*"The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development."*

The Chair clarified that this change was necessitated by a mandated request from the U3A Trust, and so even though members has voted in a change at the 2017 AGM, members were being asked to agree to this new standard text.

Margaret read out the current Constitution and the changes which had also been included in the AGM papers sent in advance of the AGM.

It was noted that there was strong emphasis on education rather than enjoyment e.g. cycling. And the new changes were not a true reflection of our Group's ethos.

One member proposed that the current constitution was kept in and the National version included as an addition whilst another commented that the phrase 'by all means' covers these more enjoyable sport activities like Cycling, Table Tennis, Badminton.

After some discussion it was agreed to put the proposed changes to the vote.

These changes were formally proposed by Mervin Larner and seconded by Harvey Wallace.

The voting was by a show of hands and was approved.

### **Open Forum**

Margaret opened this section by inviting members to ask any questions / points of clarification / give any general notifications to members e.g.

- What groups?

- Any other matters / activities members would like the Committee to help with.

Bowls: Ian Stimpson invited members for a Bowls Group which could easily be integrated as joint sessions with the Croquet Group. The Croquet Group has now moved to new premises at St Andrew's Road Bowls and Croquet Club [RG22 6RQ]. A member commended the new premises and offered her thanks to Alex Ball for making this happen.

Croquet: Alex Ball invited members has the new premises at St Andrew's Road has meant some vacant slots are available.

Excursions: Joyce Cook \_ June 2019 Royal Albert Hall The Planets with Royal Philharmonic and HD Odyssey with film screen. Asked for indication of interests. Seats will be in the arena. June 30th, June 30th, picnic in park. Open to all members.  
Two Christmas Concerts: Dec 7th Salisbury Cathedral and Dec 10th Chichester Cathedral

French: a French Intermediate Group leader is needed as whilst there is a Beginner Group and an Advanced Group, there is no-one to take the Intermediate.  
Currently Beginners and Intermediate have been merged and this is not working particularly well.!

**Closure of the AGM:**

The business of the meeting was concluded, and Margaret closed the AGM section of the monthly meeting by thanking everyone for their support.

**Signed:** .....

**Dated:** .....