

## KNUTSFORD & DISTRICT U3A

### Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023

#### 1. Introduction

Mark Barley welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave housekeeping announcements. He also thanked Liz Griffin and Elizabeth Hosking for serving the teas.

**Apologies** have been received from Irene Hardy, Helen Smith, Heather Eddowes, Geoff & Jenny Holman, Nicola Bridgeman, Edwina Pointon, Bridget Knight, Pauline Hales, Hazel Snowden, Jack & Freda Woolcock, Margaret Farmer and Adrian Fisher.

#### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2022

The minutes, which had been circulated prior to the meeting, were accepted as a true record of the above meeting. Proposed by Margaret Joscelyn and seconded by Lynda Harris. One abstention, no one against.

#### 3. Matters arising from the Minutes

None

#### 4. Trustees' Report

A summary of the Trustees' Report covering the period April 2022 – March 2023 had previously been circulated in the June edition of Kanuta.

The year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023 has seen our u3a continue to recover from the effects of the global pandemic. Our membership at the end of March 2023 was 682, with an additional 45 Associate Members (those who are also members of other u3as). Our membership is back to the same level (about 700) as it was pre-Covid.

At the beginning of this period our activities were still recovering from the effects of the pandemic. While our u3a was fully open, there was a lot of testing and some disruption as members had to self-isolate at short notice if they had a positive test result. Also, a number of activity groups that had stopped running during the lock-down period, failed to restart as conditions improved. Towards the end of the period, we welcomed five new activity groups: two 5Km walking groups, classical Greek, yoga and senior fitness; bringing our total number of activity groups to 49.

Our Outings sub-committee has been very active this year organising six trips to places of interest including a five-day trip to Northumberland. They also organised seven trips to concerts or the theatre.

The Committee organised two events that support our organisation to grow and thrive. In the autumn we had a group leaders' coffee morning which also includes key members involved in the organisation of our u3a, such as the technical team, and the Outings' and Speakers' committees. This is a networking event, usually with a theme, so that key members can share ideas and experiences to develop our organisation. In September we held our 'Showcase event' with displays provided by many Activity groups so that both members and the wider public can get a better idea of what we do, and the groups themselves can attract new members.

In addition to our monthly meetings where an outside speaker gives a talk, we have started our 'Hidden Talents' programme which involves presentations by Knutsford u3a members on a topic of their choice to

the membership. During this period, we had four presentations on a diverse range of subjects which were very well received, and we intend to continue this new programme into the future.

Towards the end of the period the Committee made the decision to claim for Gift Aid on our subscriptions starting with the renewals in April 2023.

Mark Barley thanked the Committee for their hard work during this year and felt that we can look forward to a bright future.

## 5. Treasurer's Report by Adrian Long

The accounts had been previously circulated to the membership by email. These accounts have not yet been inspected but will be inspected by Bob Beale of Northwich u3a as an independent inspector.

Overall we have had an excellent year, overall income was £61,700 compared with £33,500 last year (up 84%). Our overall surplus is £3,700 in the unrestricted funds (main account) and £2,900 in the restricted fund (Activity Group account).

Last year I reported that we had settled with a NatWest charitable bank account. Unfortunately the Knutsford branch is closing so this will make on-line receipts and payments more important although cheques can be paid in at the Post Office.

The on-line system for payment of subscriptions (via PayPal) is proving popular with around 80% of subscriptions paid on-line, reducing the number of cheques handled and therefore workload for Committee members. Please continue to use this facility if at all possible.

Last year the subscription was increased to £18 (£12 for Associate Members). Steady membership numbers and good cost control will allow us to keep to these figures for subscriptions next year. We will be claiming Gift Aid on applicable subscriptions this year which, if successful, will influence our thoughts on the future level of subscription.

Under Charity Commission rules our u3a does not have to have an audit. An independent inspection is sufficient. It was proposed that we keep to the process of having an independent inspection of the accounts by Bob Beale from Northwich u3a.

**Questions from the membership:** None

**Approval of uninspected Accounts** was proposed by Evelyn Whittaker and seconded by Margaret Burke. The members present voted to accept the uninspected Accounts with 1 abstention.

The full Trustees' Report and Accounts are available on our website and will be submitted to the Charity Commission.

## 6. Elections to the Committee

Under our new constitution, which must now come into operation, all Committee members must be re-elected at each AGM

	<b>Proposed by</b>	<b>Seconded by</b>
Mark Barley	Michael Regan	Simon Willway

Roger Brown	Evelyn Flett	Sarah Lees
Sue Allan	Nicola Brocklehurst	Jane Smallwood
Stuart Allan	Nicola Brocklehurst	Jane Smallwood
Tony Axon	Stuart Allan	Yvonne Debio
Georgina Blackburn	Jenny Clegg	Lyndsey Jones
Wendy Brooks	Paula Ashley	William Tegner
Irene Hardy	Jane Smallwood	Sue Allan
Adrian Long	Lorelly Wilson	Bryn James
Helen MacAlister Smith	Dorothy Long	Christine Eyre
Robert Watson	Margaret Hinde	Carole English

Those present agreed to vote on all the above in one vote and they were duly elected to the Committee with no abstentions or anyone voting against.

A question was raised by a member in the audience about how long Committee members can serve for. A person can be a Committee member for 9 years but can only serve as Chair for 3 years. Mark Barley has completed 3 years as Chair so Sue Allan will be taking over this position after this AGM.

The Committee now consists of 11 members, therefore there is one vacancy this year.

**7. Any Other Business**

None

**8. Date of next meeting**

This was provisionally set as Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2024