



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## ABERDEEN U3A

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2018 at the Boys Brigade HQ, Crimon Place, Aberdeen**

#### 1. Welcome

Derek Melloy chaired the meeting and welcomed all present.

#### 2. Notices

Before the formal business there were notices about the continuing shortage of first aiders for meetings, and the arrangements for the June international lunch and for the summer outing to Scone Palace.

Members were asked to inform the Chairman if they did not want to be photographed during the meeting.

The Chairman confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

Present: Elizabeth Alexander, Violet Anderson, Catherine Baghurst, Christine Calder, Moira Campbell, Sylvia Carrillo, Elizabeth (Lizann) Carwood, Jane Catto, Jean Collie, Roberta Constable, David Craig, Sharara Crichton, Elaine Cummins, Judith Dack, Sally Dickson, Sue Dingle, Amy Downs, Sylvia Dryer, Pat Duncan, Sheena Farquhar, Gladys Ferguson, Majoe Fitzpatrick, Nicky Fyfe, Fiona Gardiner, Frances Gray, Monica Gray, Helen Halliday, Una Haydock, Ann House, Enid Knutton, Anne Langford, Jill Lawrie, Wendy Lowe, Christine MacKenzie, Christina MacLeod, Frances Macrae-Gibson, Norma Marioni, May Martin, Joyce McAdie, Joseph McAdie, Patricia McConnachie, Maggie McKenna, Derek Melloy, Freda Middleton, Alison Milton, Robert Morrison, Helen Mortimer, Margaret Murray Anne Murray, Heather Mutch, Valerie Nesham, Sheila Noble, Helen Oram, Patricia Payne, June Raitt, Helen Riach, Ruth Richardson, James Robertson, Grace Marion Rose, Alice Ross, Margaret Ruddiman, Ann Simpkin, Gunilla Smith, Erica Steele, Michael Steele, Doreen P Stewart, Tina Stockman, Doris Strachan, Louise Sutherland, Norma Walker, Fiona Watson, Martha Wells.

Apologies: Kathleen Cordiner, Betty Fowler, Kathleen Fowler, Jennifer Leighton, John Shewell, Teresa Shewell, Glenys Wells and John Wells.

#### 3. Adoption of minutes of the AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017.

The adoption of the minutes was proposed by Doreen P Stewart and seconded by Erica Steele. The minutes were adopted by the members with no dissent.

#### 4. Matters arising if any

There were no matters arising.

#### 5. Chairman's Report

Derek Melloy gave his report:

The Chairman's report is where I get to say thank you to all those who have contributed to Aberdeen U3A during the year. It's been another successful year for Aberdeen U3A and I want to start by thanking you all, all the members, because it is you who make Aberdeen U3A what it is, fun, entertaining and most of all a place to keep one's mind active.

Usually I leave the committee till later in the report, however, the tragic loss of Mark Haines, who was doing such sterling work as our Secretary means that this year I have to acknowledge up front that there have been some difficult moments. We miss you, Mark.

The committee, which was already coping with my illness has had to pull together, and I must thank especially Nicky Fyfe our Vice-chair and Joyce McAdie our Treasurer who have taken on extra burdens.

Our membership level has grown just past last year's count of 255. Our 23 interest groups continue to thrive, as we'll hear in the Group Coordinator's report. Average attendance at our monthly meetings has grown to

around 100. We've had local topics like Dolphin Watch and Aberdeen Hospitals and we've visited wider horizons such as Barotseland. We did only get 22 when the "beast from the east" made the weather so bad and I had to stand in for a speaker who couldn't make it and deliver my talk about the Baltic States. I want to say a special thank you to Maggie McKenna and Sheena Farquhar for organising the talks and for all their work on the committee. We've had some very good meetings here, and I want to thank John and all at the BBH who are very helpful to us here every month.

I also want to thank all those who labour behind the scenes at these meetings taking names at the door, serving teas and coffees, and providing first aid services. Thanks especially to Betty Fowler for organising our dwindling number of first aiders. I hope that replacements can be found. Those who provided first aid support in 2017-18 along with Betty were Judy Dack, Pauline Morrison, David Thomson and John Wood.

Apart from members of the committee, the others who helped with teas and coffees were Sylvia Carrillo, Margot Cumming, Jackie Hughes, Wendy Lowe, Helen Mortimer, Alice Ross, Rachael McLeod, and Erica and Michael Steele. Many thanks.

Thanks to Sylvia Dryer who has stepped down from the committee. She used to take the names at the door and was our minutes secretary.

I'd like to thank Sue Dingle for her work as Group Coordinator and for being a stalwart to whom I could always turn for good counsel. Thanks also to all those at the Northern Arts Club who have helped us.

Last year's trip to Peterhead Prison and Fraserburgh was greatly enjoyed and I am sure that the outing to Scone Palace will also be great fun. Many thanks to May Martin who has organised these events. We also had the annual Christmas Party here at the BBH and the New Year Lunch at the Park Inn and these social occasions complement the learning at other meetings. Thanks are due to Maggie McKenna and Sheena Farquhar for the organisation of both events.

Thanks to Enid Knutton for continuing to keep our website up to date and informative. She makes it so attractive with her photographs. Thanks also to all who entered our photo competition, whose work can be accessed via the website. I'd also like to thank the newsletter editor who made the most of his limited talent for such things. I must thank Louise Sutherland for her work in posting out the newsletter and for the cakes when we got together to print the labels.

Now that I've finished my chemotherapy treatment I am standing down to give me more time to recover. I could only have served till January anyway. In a little while we shall elect a new committee and if we don't find a new Chairman we shall not be able to continue. Last year I concluded by asking you all to search your hearts and ask if you could step up to the key role of Secretary at the election later in the meeting. This year it is Chairman that we need.

Aberdeen U3A gives a lot of pleasure to so many, and I hope that it will continue for many years yet.

#### 6. Annual Report and Financial Statements

Copies had been made available on our web site and paper copies were available to members at the meeting.

The Chairman then drew the members' attention to the accounts and invited questions. There being no questions, the Chairman asked that the Annual Report and Financial Statements be adopted by the membership. This was proposed by Joyce McAdie and seconded by Sue Dingle. The members approved with no dissent.

Joyce McAdie then stated that she had drafted the budget for 2018-19. In order to retain the Aberdeen U3A reserves at the level recommended by the Third Age Trust, it was desirable for all parts of the Aberdeen U3A to break even. Although the income from the group fees is enough to pay for the accommodation at the Northern Arts Club and associated expenses, the annual membership fees and the money taken in at the monthly meetings do not cover the general costs and the monthly meeting costs. The committee had therefore agreed that, rather than increase the membership fee to its previous level of £12, the door fee at the monthly meeting would be raised to £3, with effect from September 2018.

-

#### 7. Appointment of examiner.

Joyce McAdie proposed that Brian Conn be re-appointed as external examiner. The motion was proposed by Enid Knutton and seconded by Anne Murray. The motion was approved with no dissent.

#### 8. Group Coordinator's report

Sue Dingle gave her report:-

Last year I reported we had 23 groups. This year we still have 23 groups, though sadly one or possibly two may be casualties by our next year. I would have liked to have added that we have more groups in the offing, offering an even more diverse range of subjects than those we do have. I won't list the subjects for you can find them in our Newsletter or on our website, and I believe there will be an article on the groups in the August Newsletter.

However, I am delighted that at present we still do have 23 groups and we have enjoyed another successful year of learning, fun and friendship. For this I wish to commend all the Group Leaders, and their deputies, for the huge contribution they give to our U3A by sharing their knowledge and for giving their time to enrich the lives of members. I am also mindful of those members who attend the groups and their essential input, so thank you too.

BUT (there is always a but), I do feel there must be many talented members in our ever growing membership who are harbouring skills and talents we should greatly appreciate to have on the volunteering team, whether at groups or on the committee, and I ask you - the membership - to please consider what you might be able to contribute to help sustain our U3A.

I noted in the news recently there was a lady, Rosemary Powell, who has completed 97 years as a volunteer of Poppy Day collecting, it had she said "kept her going" but "now I am getting old" She is 103! A bit tongue in cheek, but only a bit - a goal for U3A volunteers perhaps? Incidentally I also noted today that Mary Wilson, widow of Harold Wilson, has died. She was a poet. Poetry is one of my main interests, hence the poetry groups. She was 102, so maybe, just maybe, I'll be around for a long time too!

Last, but not least, on behalf of the Group Leaders, I give our heartfelt wishes to Derek Melloy for a future of better health and good times ahead, and thank him for stepping up as Chair when we needed someone to keep us going and for completing his term of office under difficult personal circumstances. Thank you, Derek.

#### 9. Presentation of Long Service awards

Derek Melloy spoke of the importance of the Group Leaders and, in recognition of their work, and that last year we started to recognise group leaders who had been leading a group for more than 5 years. This year he was pleased to present a gift to Freda Middleton for her leadership of the International Lunch group and to Margaret Murray for French.

#### 10. Proposal to change clause 3 of the constitution

Members had been notified of the proposed change in clause 3 of the constitution prior to the meeting, with the draft constitution being posted on the Aberdeen U3A website and hard copies available by post. The change in wording had been made as advised by the Third Age Trust in consultation with OSCR, and was proposed by Sharara Crighton and seconded by Patricia McConnachie. The members approved with no dissent.

#### 11. Proposal to adopt new Data Protection and Privacy Policies in line with the new Data Protection Act

Copies of the two new policies had been sent to members along with the papers for the AGM. Adoption of the Data Protection Policy was proposed by Lizann Carwood and seconded by Anne Murray. Adoption of the Privacy Policy was proposed by Sharara Crighton and seconded by Frances Gray. The members approved with no dissent. Derek Melloy explained that the membership form for 2018-19 onwards would be amended to ensure that members understood their rights in relation to the information Aberdeen U3A holds about them.

#### 12. Election of the office-bearers and committee members 2018-2019

The Chairman explained that under the constitution, proposals for the committee should be made in advance. At the deadline, five nominations had been received. There being no other nominations for the posts, the following were elected unopposed:

Vice-Chair: Nicky Fyfe: Proposed by Erica Steele and seconded by Michael Steele  
Treasurer: Joyce McAdie: Proposed by Doris Strachan and seconded by Dorothy Hogg  
Committee Members:

Maggie McKenna: Proposed by Margot Cumming and seconded by Fiona Watson  
Sheena Farquhar: Proposed by Michael Steele and seconded by Erica Steele  
Louise Sutherland. Proposed by Mary Cruickshank and seconded by Val Nesham

There being vacancies Derek Melloy asked for a vote to allow him to make an appeal for volunteers from the meeting to become committee members. On a vote of the membership, this was agreed with no dissent.

Derek explained that Fiona Watson was prepared to take on the role as Secretary. Fiona was proposed by Enid Knutton and seconded by Pat McConnachie and elected unopposed.

Derek stated that May Martin wishes to stay on the committee and there were two members who were not present but who are willing to be members of the committee: John Shewell and Teresa Shewell. May was proposed by Majoe Fitzpatrick and seconded by Helen Oram. John was proposed by Enid Knutton and seconded by Lizann Carwood. Teresa was proposed by Gunilla Smith and seconded by Jill Lawrie.

Derek stated that Sue Dingle and Enid Knutton were to continue as Group Co-ordinator and Website Manager respectively, and that Tina Stockman would now take over as editor of the Newsletter.

Derek explained that we did need someone who is prepared to take on the role as Chairman, and called for a volunteer, without success. In answer to questions from members, Derek confirmed that no member of the former or present committee wished to take on the role of chairman.

He also reminded members that that the role of chairman was not as onerous as it might appear, as  
a) in addition to being Chairman, he had undertaken responsibility for managing the equipment, and, until recently, he had also been the Newsletter editor;

b) following the death of the secretary, he had been doing some of the tasks that would normally be the remit of the secretary; and

c) the secretarial work had been unusually complex this year because of the need 1) to amend the constitution and 2) to develop and implement new policies and guidelines to comply with the requirements of the new General Data Protection Regulations, which had come into force on 25 May 2018.

As there were still no volunteers from the members present, Derek Melloy stated that he would put out an email to all members with a final call for a chairman, along with details of the role, and that if no one came forward, the newly-elected committee would have to begin the process of dissolving the Aberdeen U3A.

There being no further nominations the committee was confirmed meantime as:

Chairperson	vacant
Vice-chair	Nicky Fyfe
Secretary	Fiona Watson
Treasurer	Joyce McAdie
Committee members:	Sheena Farquhar, May Martin, Maggie McKenna, John Shewell, Teresa Shewell and Louise Sutherland

13. AOB. Derek Melloy invited questions from the members but none were raised.

Derek concluded the meeting at 2.25pm and invited the members to enjoy refreshments.

Minutes approved: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_