

AMBLESIDE AND DISTRICT U3A

Registered Charity No. 1050193

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 12 September 2016 at 2.15 p.m. at the Marchesi Centre, Windermere

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks. Mike Green (MG) welcomed everyone and reported that the meeting was quorate. He expressed great sadness at the absence of Bill McCormack, Treasurer of the group, who had died a month ago. He said that Bill had taken on the role with enthusiasm and great competence and will be greatly missed. His wife Judith and their 2 sons had expressed their thanks for cards and kind messages from members.

2. Apologies for Absence were received from Pat Campbell, Judith Cobban, Judith Cochrane, Kathy and Rae Cross, Rob Entwistle, Peter and Sylvia Foreman, Penelope Harding, John Hawson, Penny Henderson, Brian James, Eira Leach, John Lean, Rob and Christine McGraw, Jessie Morris, Steve and Jenny Morris, Rita and Graham Stemp, Peter and Jacky Trulove, Mary Wane.

3. Minutes of AGM 14th September 2015. The minutes were approved, with one change; the word "new" to be deleted from the second sentence of the Chairman's Closing Remarks.

4. Matters arising.

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report for 2015-16

MG gave a summary of group activities stating that most groups are thriving and several have had significant increases in membership recently. New co-ordinators are needed for the Play Reading, Science and Archaeology groups. Overall membership stands at 360 with around 40 - 50 new members each year.

MG explained the benefits of the new Beacon membership system which greatly reduces the workload of the membership secretary and enables members to access their own records and co-ordinators to email their group members.

Whilst there have been successful courses in the area during the year, including the Cumbria Network Energy Conference and the Northwest summer school at Newton Rigg, only the Music group had organised one day courses within our membership and he encouraged members to plan more courses in the future. A further Energy Conference is planned for March 2017 and other regional events are advertised on the TAT website and in Third Age Matters.

MG reported that, as things stood, there was no Talks Organiser and after January there will be no more Monday meeting speakers unless somebody comes forward. Likewise there is still a vacancy for Chairperson as no nominations have been received.

Whilst this is a very serious situation, MG stressed that membership and groups have increased and that the new website and membership administrative system have all helped the group to thrive. It is also more disability friendly. He had enjoyed his three years in office, endorsed the U3A philosophy of keeping physically, mentally and socially active in older age, and thanked everyone who had worked hard in contributing to its success.

At this point, Hanna Burke thanked MG, on behalf of the members, for his wonderful work as Chairman for the past three years and presented him with a small token of appreciation.

6. Treasurer's Report and Approval of Accounts for 2015-16

MG had taken over the final preparations of the accounts following the sad loss of Bill McCormack. He explained that the large surplus for the year was partly due to a late payment of Gift Aid from HMRC for 2014/15, resulting in 2 payments being received in the 2015/16 financial year. There were also outstanding invoices amounting to £485 which were paid after the 2015/16 year end. From now on the surplus will run down and a deficit can be expected in the coming year. A separate social account had been set up last year, as required by HMRC, and shows a small surplus. He explained the fluctuations of the group accounts and the sum of £175 spent by the walking groups on an emergency beacon system. This was funded from part of a generous donation of £250 given by Jessie Morris in memory of Christopher Morris who is widely

regarded as the driving force behind the establishment of A & D U3A.

The accounts were approved.

7. It was agreed that the subscription of £12 should remain unchanged for 2016/17.

8. Election of Officers

The nominations were as follows and the persons named were elected:-

Chairman: No nominee

Secretary: Vicky Harrison (Proposer: Steve Morris, Seconder: Mike Green)

Treasurer: Nigel Nixon (elected by show of hands nem com)

9. Election of Committee

The nominations were as follows and the persons named were elected:-

Membership Secretary: Elizabeth Moreton (Proposer:: Frances Green, Seconder: Vicky Harrison)

Committee Member: Hanna Burke (Proposer: Alan Robinson, Seconder: Vicky Harrison)

Committee Member: Steve Morris (Proposer: Vicky Harrison, Seconder: Frances Green)

Committee Member: Alan Robinson (Proposer: Hanna Burke, Seconder: Steve Morris)

One committee position remains unfilled and under the constitution the committee is empowered to make an appointment.

10. Tony Willey was approved as Independent Examiner of the accounts for 2016/17.

11. Chairman's closing remarks

In the absence of a new Chairperson, MG took suggestions and questions from the floor. Various concerns were raised about the running of U3A without a Chairperson. Several members suggested ways to share effort in the short term and MG suggested that any offers of help should be referred to the secretary. He concluded that the group was in a strong position moving forward but that a new Chairperson was needed as a matter of urgency.