

u3a in Scotland

Scottish Charity SC 030370

Minutes of the AGM held in Glasgow on 21st June 2022 at 1.30pm and via Zoom

Present: Anne Walsh Chairperson, Liz Ervine Vice Chair, Margaret Moffat Treasurer,
Rosie Alexander Secretary, Karyn Wilson Hill Committee member.

The meeting was quorate with 12 u3as represented

Apologies had been received from:

Bearsden and Milngavie u3a, Orkney u3a, Brechin u3a and Tweeddale u3a

1. Chairperson Anne Walsh welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped that the people on zoom could also follow the proceedings. The poor attendance at the meeting could be attributed to the National Rail Strike may have stopped many people from attending in person.
2. The minutes from the 2021 AGM were approved.
3. Matters arising from the minutes – none

At this point there were ongoing problems with the Zoom link, so with regret the AGM on Zoom had to be discontinued.

4. To receive reports from
Chairperson:

The chairperson welcomed those who had joined us face to face at the venue and apologised that due to technical difficulties, the proposed hybrid meeting was not able to take place.

The past year had been very much a learning curve as most committee members were new.

We had enjoyed a working relationship with the Scottish Trustee and hoped that would continue.

A few new possible u3as had been in the offing but so far nothing had progressed and sadly we had lost 3 u3as in this past year, all in the north west of Scotland. Committee meetings had all taken place on Zoom as had the two assemblies. This had resulted in our bank balance looking healthier as costs were kept down. We didn't even have to pay for Zoom licence as the chair had the one from the Trust because she was a Zoom tutor.

Summer School plans were going ahead well and we had co-opted the chair of Edinburgh u3a on as the representative of the One Foot in the Future project which he would talk about during the meeting.

We had reviewed our constitution and this would hopefully be approved at this meeting.

We were also working on a recruitment project with the chair of Penicuik u3a to get u3a mentioned in pre-retirement courses.

Financial report:

The Treasurer reported that the accounts had been externally examined and approved by the committee. The accounts stood at £10,461.44 of which £2,347.00 is for Summer School 2022.

Trustees Report given by Ann Keating

Raising the profile of the u3a is an ongoing project. Changes must be made if we are to remain a relevant, growing and dynamic movement. With this in mind the Third Age Trust is developing a stronger, public engagement voice. Training will be offered on how to develop this voice and take part in projects to support causes u3as feel strongly about. For example, banking is an issue that affects us all. High Street branches are closing, and more and more of our financial transactions are done online. This causes many of our members difficulty because they are not comfortable using online banking, or they have poor broadband reception. If we make our voice heard, we might be able to persuade the banks to open more community hubs where face to face banking can be done.

Eric Midwinter, one of the u3a founders, had hoped that the u3a would have had a stronger voice and is pleased that we are now trying to achieve this goal.

Online Across Scotland was a response to Covid but there is an appetite to keep it going. It will come under the umbrella of u3a Scotland which will help to make communication clearer.

We have lost 4 u3as because of the difficulty of getting members to serve on committees. Please remember that the u3a is not a passive organisation. We are a mutual, self-help movement and all members should get involved in some way.

The good news is that a steering group in Banchory is in the process of launching a new u3a. The village hall was full for the information meeting.

5. To appoint and External Examiner for the Accounts 2022-2023

It was agreed to re-appoint Gavin Foster as the External Examiner for the accounts.

6. No motions had been received.

7. To agree and adopt the revised Constitution for u3a in Scotland.

The papers for the above had been circulated to all u3as prior to the event.

The constitution that u3a in Scotland had in place was agreed in 2018 and was not up to date.

The Secretary briefly explained that u3a in Scotland had become a network and a constitution for Networks had been agreed with the Trust, Scottish Lawyers and OSCR. The committee decided to update the constitution with the new one.

The committee needs the approval from the members present to adopt the new version.

Carried by majority vote.

8. Appointment of Officers and Committee members.

The following had been nominated and seconded as per the constitution.

Anne Walsh	Chairperson
Liz Ervine	Vice Chair
Margaret Moffatt	Treasurer
Rosie Alexander	Secretary
Karyn Wilson Hill	Committee member
Linda Matheson	Committee member

No other nominations had been received and therefore the above were appointed.

9. Any Other Competent Business

Susan Tester reported that all was going well for the Summer School in Stirling on 16 - 18 August 2022. There had been a good response with 66 participants, including 58 paying participants, 7 tutors and 1 organiser. The courses on Immunology and Mesoamerica were fully booked. There were a few places available on the Poetry, Creative Writing and Scottish History courses. Bookings will close on 30 June 2022.

Richard People talked about his One Foot in the Future Project and Allana Parker and Richard Peoples made a mention of the visit of the AIUTA president (International u3a) to Scotland in September. Maria Chester had been due to speak about that but sadly had to join the rest of you in the great Zoom abyss.

A question was asked by a member u3a regarding meeting in a Church. AK responded that no one had ever raised that point before.

There being no further business the AGM was closed at 2.30pm

