

**BISHOP'S STORTFORD U3A**  
**Minutes of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting held at the Methodist Church, Bishop's Stortford**  
**12th March, 2018**

The meeting was opened at 14.30 by the Chairman, Keith Hicks who extended a warm welcome to all.

**1) Apologies for absence:** Susan Shaw, Jack Treves

**2) Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and Chairman's report**

The minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting were not read out by the Chairman as they had previously been published on the website and available via hard copy throughout 2017 for perusal and comment.

They were accepted as a true and correct record.

Proposed: Jenny McGregor  
Seconded: Barbara Beston  
Vote: Unanimously accepted

The 2017 minutes were signed by the Chairman Keith Hicks.

**3) Matters Arising: None**

**4) Chairman's Report**

The Chairman, Keith Hicks gave his report for 2017/18.

Copy attached to the file copy of the March 2018 Minutes also available on the website or via hard copy upon request from the Secretary.

**5) Treasurer's Report and the Appointment of Examiner**

The examined accounts for 2017 were presented. The Treasurer, Alasdair Hidden, gave his report and addressed various items in the accounts. He pointed out the improvement since 2016, mainly due to the disappointing uptake of the £1290 available to groups from Gift Aid for capital grants and loans. Together with other savings he reported we had an improvement on income exceeding £3000 which impacted our cash reserves (mentioned under balance sheet).

He also said that there are currently 1175 paid up members compared to 1251 five years ago representing a 6% reduction in members. There was also a considerable decline in outings of 40% over 2012 and urged members to consider volunteering to organise an outing or event which are the most popular fixtures of the Bishop's Stortford U3A calendar.

Central Accounts now held £2,593 on behalf of Groups as discussed and set out in the January 2018 newsletter and reflected in the March 2017 Accounts. The new system of central administration appears to be working well without any disruption to group activities.

The Accounts had been previously circulated to the committee, copy attached to file copy of AGM minutes, or available on the website or via hard copy upon request. The Treasurer asked for questions relating to the accounts but there were none forthcoming.

### **Subscriptions**

The Treasurer explained that two newsletters per year, posted out to members, and the new Beacon computerised membership system had been budgeted for. This fact together with our existing cash reserves this meant that Bishop's Stortford U3A will generate cash net funds to cover our expenditure, therefore, subscriptions will not be increased from £10.

The Treasurer asked for questions relating to the subscription level but none were forthcoming.

After a vote the examined accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Proposed: Maria Jackson

Seconded: Don Swain

Vote: Unanimously accepted

### **6) Approval of the Examiner of Accounts (Auditor)**

The Treasurer thanked the Examiner, Robert Inglis, for his advice, diligence and hard work examining the accounts over the past many years, and stated that Mr. Inglis would receive a small token of gratitude from the Committee. Mr. Inglis had decided to step down as Examiner and was thanked very much for his huge contribution to Bishop's Stortford U3A.

His place was being taken by Peter Bass, also a member of Bishop's Stortford U3A, who had agreed to examine the accounts from year ending December 2018. A vote was taken and Mr. Bass was unanimously elected.

Proposed: Kath Hird

Seconded: Kim Shaw

Vote: Unanimously elected

### **7. Election of Officers**

A Nomination form had been received for the re-election of committee member Keith Hicks. New committee members had been recruited Kim Shaw, Kath Hird, Jim Paterson, Jack Treves, Ken Wheatley and Carol Scott.

The Chairman introduced the full committee going forward for 2018/19.

The Chairman asked for a proposer and seconder to accept the existing member willing to stand for a further term of office (the Chairman) and to approve the election of committee members for the length of time left of their 3 year term of office, and approve the election of five new members. The committee members as listed below with the positions they are being elected to and were unanimously voted on to the committee as Trustees.

Proposed: Robert Inglis

Seconded: Jenny McGregor

Vote: Unanimously elected

## **The committee for 2017/2018**

Chairman	Keith Hicks
Vice Chairman/ Outings & Events Co-ordinator	Susan Shaw
Treasurer	Jack Treves
Secretary	Kim Shaw
Membership Secretary	Kath Hird
Website Co-ordinator and Assistant Diary Compiler	Alan Draper
Groups Manager	Sandra Baker
Speaker Co-ordinator	Jim Paterson
Committee Member	Rosalind Howlett
Committee Member	Rene Locke
Committee Member	Ken Wheatley
Committee Member	Carol Scott

### **8. Any Other Business**

The following written proposal had been received prior to the AGM.

“That the minutes, excluding any matters/discussion where a member’s privacy must be respected, of all Bishop’s Stortford U3A Executive Committee, AGM’s, Hertfordshire Network of U3A’s, the Cluster Group, Group Co-ordinators and any other such meetings should be available on the Bishop’s Stortford U3A website.”

Proposer: Dave Branchflower  
Seconder: Jeff Poynter  
Vote: Unanimously accepted and carried by the AGM

The AGM was followed by a well received and interesting presentation from Simon Marlow of Age UK Hertfordshire about his work helping people over 55 resettle at home after a spell in hospital and to try and avoid them being re-admitted. He stated that loneliness and social isolation, particularly with older men who had lost their wives or lived alone, was the biggest problem and asked that members of Bishop’s Stortford U3A think about volunteering for the visitor scheme. Simons contact numbers can be obtained from Jim Paterson the Speaker Co-ordinator.

Refreshments were served after the meeting.

Website address <http://u3asites.org.uk/bishops-stortford>