

## **BRANSTON & DISTRICT U3A**

### **Annual General Meeting**

**Tuesday 22 March 2022**

**Branston Village Hall 2pm**

**Welcome:** Garry Snelson (Chair), welcomed everyone to the AGM and explained the housekeeping and evacuation procedures. He also thanked all those who had helped with the hall preparation and catering.

He declared we were quorate, then went on to introduce the members of the Committee. He emphasised the fact that a Vice Chair was urgently needed, also some non Committee posts were currently vacant, which he hoped volunteers would offer to fill.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Lynn Alexander, Robert Armstrong, Shirley Armstrong, Joan Bennett, Jean Berry, Keith Berry, Maureen Burton, Linda Chapman, Tony Chapman, Coral Earney. Malcolm Earney, Anne Eveleigh, Bill Green, Ian Hill, Patricia Hill, Christine Hodson, Margaret Holden, Sheridan Minshull, Sylvia Minshull, Patricia Mundy, Nicholas Oakes, Sandra Oakes, Elizabeth Oglesby, Roderick Oglesby, Cive Oxby, Diane Oxby, Patrick Packwood, Sarah Packwood, Yvonne Pierce, Carol Resner, Jennifer Scott, Pat Wailen, Frank White
- 2. Matters Arising from, and Approval of, the Minutes of the AGM held on 23 March 2021:** There were no comments, so Marcus Stead proposed, and James Hewson seconded, that the Minutes be approved and accepted. All agreed, no abstentions.
- 3. Chair's Report:**

I took over as Chair via a Zoom AGM last year, which was definitely a first for me and everyone else. Zoom meetings covering Committee, General and Group meetings continued for some time so it was very pleasing to finally start with meetings in person this year.

I must mention the weekly Keeping in Touch (KIT) newsletters that James Hewson sent out every Sunday during lockdown. How James

found so many entertaining things to talk about when, all around us, nothing was happening, I'll never know, but I'm very glad he did. A big thank to James.

James' newsletters proved a very useful tool for members to feel included in their u3a. I have continued KIT, albeit in a much reduced content, sending out an email twice a month so you all know what is happening.

The Christmas Fish and Chip Lunch gave us maximum flexibility during these uncertain times but I am pleased to say it was a huge success and thank you to all the Committee and members who helped organise it.

Arranging speakers has been a problem due to Covid, as can be seen by the fact that the January speaker could not attend. I hope you all enjoyed the impromptu quiz we did in its place. I'd like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to Christine Hodson for organising the speakers and coping with the inevitable last minute changes that Covid has caused: thank you Chris, keep up the good work!

Interest Groups are now opening up and as you would expect after two years of restrictions, some groups have struggled and others have flourished. Venues have been a problem. I would like to thank the Convenors for their hard work in running the various Interest Groups, and I'd like to thank you, our members, for actively supporting the Convenors. Without you there would be no Interest Groups at all.

I would personally like to say thank you to all the Committee for their hard work and support during a very challenging time. I'd especially like to thank John Tyerman and Brian Sentance, both of whom are standing down from the Committee today. They have been members of the Committee on and off for a number of years and have given sterling service to Branston u3a during that time. Thank you to you both. Membership numbers have held up very well considering the past restrictions. It currently stands at 225 members. Obviously we have members who join for various reasons but it is good to know that we have been gaining new members.

And finally, I would like to thank all our members, new and long standing, for their support and look forward to a better year ahead.

**4. Treasurer's Report and Presentation of Accounts:**

As at 31 January 2022 the Branston & District Main Account has a reconciled balance of £4190.55

The year end accounts show a deficit of £439.74

This was expected ,as subscriptions for the 2021/22 year were reduced to counteract the lack of activity in 2020 due to Covid restrictions.

Room hire costs show a substantial increase for the year , as we have still been paying for a Zoom licence ( to enable online meetings to take place where required) alongside rentals for monthly meetings and committee meetings in person, on a regular basis, since August 2021.

A successful Christmas meal was held at the Village Hall in December , this was self funded by members attending & has no impact on the main account.

The main equipment purchase related to a Sail Flag. This can be displayed at venues around the area where u3a activities are taking place , and is an effective way of advertising our presence.

The committee agreed to fund a member attending an approved first aid course at a cost of £75.

Given the healthy balance as at 31 January 2022 , as a committee we have once again been able to agree subscriptions at a slightly reduced rate for the forthcoming year.

I look forward to our u3a returning to a full programme of activity during 2022 .

**5. Appointment Of Examiner of Accounts:** Sue Morris proposed, and Elaine Johnson seconded, that James Kelsey should be reappointed to the post. All agreed, no abstentions.

**6. Members' Motions:** There were no motions.

**7. Election Of Committee Members:** Candidates are Janet Foster (Treasurer), Anne Pickersgill (Secretary), Jane Haresign (Committee

member), Robert Waltz (Committee member). Each candidate was elected unanimously.

**8. Date of the next AGM: Tuesday 28 March 2023.**

Before closing the meeting Garry informed members of the Branston Garden Club Show on 9 April 2022 and advised that the Croquet Club was looking for new members from 25 April 2022.

There was then a presentation to John Tyerman and Brian Sentance on their retiral from the Committee, to thank them for their hard work and support over the previous years.

There being no further business, The AGM closed at 2.17pm

*Jane Avesig (Chair) 18-04-2023*