

BRANSTON & DISTRICT U3A
13TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 27 MARCH 2018
Branston Village Hall 2.00 p.m

1 Apologies for Absence:

Vernon Goddard, Carol Goddard, Peter Oates, Alison Oates, Colin Beck, Joyce Beck, Lynne Alexander, Kevin Faulkner, Margaret Faulkener, Mike Burbidge, Jackie Burbidge, MaryAnne Williams, Bill Randerson, Jo Randerson, Frank White, Brian Haynes, Pauline Brew, Richard Free, Jackie Free, Ian Hill, Pat Hill, Veronica Byrne, Mary Tibble, Rob Sargent, Val Sargent, Pat Edwards, Bill Green.

There were 82 members present. In the absence of the Secretary, the Vice-Chair took the Minutes.

2 Approval of the AGM Minutes held on 28 March 2017

Proposed Marcus Stead, seconded John Tyerman. Carried.
There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

3 Adoption of Standard Procedures

Draft Standard Procedures had been circulated to members prior to the meeting. Doug Brooks suggested that Item 5 under the heading CHAIR be changed to read:
“The Chair shall manage the discussion, accord the right to speak, put items to the vote and announce decisions.”
Jim O’Hara suggested that item 3 under the heading SPEECHES be changed to read:
“The Chair will manage the length of speakers’ time.”

With those amendments, proposed Anne Eveleigh, seconded Brian Sentence. Carried.
The Standard Procedures to be revised and put on the website.

4 Receipt and Adoption of Statement of Accounts 2017-2018

The Financial Statement had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. The Acting Treasurer told the meeting that the U3A is in a healthy financial position with a balance of £3,659.44 being carried forward into the current financial year. There was an operating deficit of £70.24, £42 more than the previous year, which would indicate that budgeting is about right. However, with the demise of Heighington Village Hall, there was an unforeseen purchase of a secure storage cupboard to hold our equipment at the Pavilion. The meeting was told that the Committee had agreed to increase the monthly meeting charge to £1 as the meetings had been subsidised by more than £400 in the previous year.

Savings had been made by communicating with the membership through emails, which not only saved on printing costs, but is more environmentally sustainable. It also meant that there could be more content in the Newsletter, with more pictures in full colour. The Committee was aware that there were 19 members who do not have email access so they still received information in paper format.

John Tyerman proposed that the meeting accept the accounts, seconded by Sue Morris. Carried.

5 Appointment of Examiner of Accounts for 2018-2019

The meeting was told that Kevin Marshal who has examined the accounts in previous years has given notice that will not continue to do so. The meeting gave permission for the Committee to find an alternative examiner to audit the current year's accounts.

Proposed Joyce Hackney, seconded Elaine Johnson.

6 Chairman's Report

The Chair opened his report by saying that he was now half way through his two year term as Chair following the previous Chair's unexpected resignation last May. He outlined the sequence of events that followed her resignation, including the misuse of the members' email addresses. He assured the meeting that steps had been taken to ensure that members' email addresses can no longer be accessed by anyone other than Committee members and Group Convenors for use within their Groups – and only used for messages appropriate to the administration of the U3A.

In practical terms the Chair has now recreated the database, and although there had been a few teething problems, they will be resolved as the system continues to be developed. The Chair expressed his gratitude to the Committee and members who had shown their support and understanding through what was a very difficult time.

Membership is now at 240 members, roughly the same as this time last year. There are 33 interest Groups, although the Poetry and Prose for Pleasure group has now been closed. The proposed Coffee Club is a non-starter through lack of support. The Singing group now has an accompanist and will hold the first meeting in April, although an accompanist from amongst the members is still being sought.

The Air Rifle Shooting Group was being progressed but there may be a problem with insurance cover. The proposed Kurling Group may be a non starter as none of those wishing to join is willing to become Convenor. The Chair found this a troubling development as part of the ethos of the U3A is that we all contribute to the running of the organisation rather than simply attending for our own entertainment and enjoyment. During the year there had been a number of changes of Group Convenors, and the Chair thanked all Convenors, past, present and continuing, for all they do to make this organisation work. Thanks were also given to those who volunteer with such things as catering, under the management of Anita Yorke, and the setting up of the hall, under Alan Croxford's care.

Three Committee members had left during the year and the Chair thanked Malcolm Earney, Maureen Burton and Mike Burbidge for all that they had contributed to the team. The Chair then gave a special word of thanks to John Tyerman and Jo Randerson who had come to the end of their permitted terms of office - John in numerous roles over the last seven years and Jo as secretary. John has very kindly volunteered to continue managing the website and producing the newsletter in an ex-officio capacity.

The Chair gave a brief report on the TAT training day that he and the Vice-Chair had attended in Leeds where they learned more about the insurance cover provided through TAT and the new GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations) which come into force in May. The Chair assured the meeting that the Committee is doing their utmost to protect members' personal data and ensure compliancy with the new regulations.

He went on to report that they had also attended seminars on Equality and Diversity and Vulnerable Persons policies and were heartened to discover that because of the work of previous committee teams, existing policies on these subjects are robust. However, the Committee is not being complacent as all existing policies are being reviewed to ensure that they conform to current standards. All policies are available for download from the website and asked that if any members feel that anything needs further consideration to please let the Committee know.

The Chair closed his report by thanking all the members for their continued support for the U3A over the past year.

Mike Wood offered a vote of thanks to the Chair for everything he has done for Branston U3A through a very challenging time since last May.

7 Appointment of Committee Members

Chair	James Hewson
Vice-Chair	Andrea White
Secretary	Eileen McKelvey
Treasurer	Valerie Elliott
Programme Secretary	Marcus Stead
Membership Secretary	Elaine Johnson
Groups Coordinator	Denis Stubbings
Welfare Officer	Rosamund Bloomfield
Committee	Christine Hodson
Committee	Brian Sentence

Each Committee member was voted on separately by members present.

8 Appointment of Scrutineers for Items 9 a), 9b), 9C

Sue Morris and Wendy Wilcox volunteered to collect and count votes on the proposed changes to the Constitution. Of the 82 present, 80 were permitted to vote.

Proposed Jean Matson, seconded Jim O'Hara.

9 Amendments to the Constitution

a) Replacement of Constitution item 3(i) by a new Object Clause and deletion of item 3(ii)

“The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.”

Proposed John Still, seconded Val Elliott. The proposal was carried unanimously.

b) Amendment to Constitution Item 5 (i) a) - Abolition of Minimum Age

Delete: “Membership of The U3A shall be open to individuals who are 55 or over and who have retired from full time employment, who are interested in furthering the work of The U3A, who have paid the annual subscription;”

and replace with: “Membership of The U3A shall be open to individuals who are in their Third Age residing in Branston and the surrounding area who are interested in participating in and furthering the work of The U3A. Membership is dependent on agreeing to abide by this constitution and any membership conditions properly imposed by the Executive Committee and to pay the annual subscription as determined by the Executive Committee and confirmed by the membership at an Annual General Meeting. No individual may be admitted to membership if the executive Committee considers that they do not meet these conditions.

For the purpose of this Constitution the Third Age is taken to mean people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age being the period of time after the first age of childhood dependence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility.”

Proposed John Tyerman, Seconded Jim O’Hara. Carried 77 votes for and 3 against.

c) Addition to the Constitution as item 6(vi) - Prevention of close relations serving on the Executive Committee simultaneously.

“To avoid conflict of interest and promote a diverse range of Trustees, it is preferable that no two members of the Executive Committee shall be a close family member of another member of the Committee. This includes spouses, parent and child, siblings, partners and other relations deemed by the Committee to be in close family relationship. This condition will apply except in the extreme case of insufficient members being available to give the minimum of six Committee Members.”

Proposed John Butler, seconded John Still. Carried 75 for, 3 against and 2 abstentions.

The Constitution to be changed in accordance with the above decisions and the Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission to be informed.

10 Any Other Business

a) The Chair asked members present their thoughts on whether membership badges were useful. The majority of those voting were in favour of keeping them.

b) The Chair reported that he had received an enquiry as to what steps were being taken to conform to the forthcoming General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). He reported that the Committee had begun considering the matter and would decide what personal details needed to be retained and the Membership would be updated in the near future. The Membership database was currently managed by the Chair in secure conditions and only he had access to the full dataset.

The Chair then closed the meeting at 3.15 pm.

Refreshments were then served, followed by a performance of the Lincoln Male Orpheus Choir.

Signed as a true record

Date