

## **MINUTES OF BRIDPORT & DISTRICT U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2018 AT 2PM**

**AT BRIDPORT UNITED CHURCH HALL, BRIDPORT**

### **Membership Present:**

**Committee Members Present:** Pat Grafton (Chairman), John Collins (Business Secretary), Valerie Gierth (Treasurer), Diana Coleridge, Mary Thomas, Alan Hobby, Mick Holgate, John Walker, Julian Rosbrook and Jennie Carter

**Chairman's welcome:** Pat welcomed all members to our 9<sup>th</sup> AGM and thanked everyone for attending.

**Apologies for absence:** Carol Dixon, Peter Marchant, Stewart and Vicky Owers, Phil and Jenny Tuckwell, Elaine Henderson, Phillippa Grier and Peter Godden

**Minutes of the previous AGM:** The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:**

As we enter our ninth year, our membership on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 stood at 544. This includes 20 associate members, that are people who also belong to another U3A. Yet again our very successful Open Afternoon last October was enjoyed by all and attracted good number of new members.

Several new groups have started over the last twelve months, while we have also expanded existing groups and now have 4 Play Reading groups, 6 Book groups and a whole clutch of Walking groups offering walks of different lengths. In total, we have over sixty groups covering a wide range of interests. Changes are always listed on the website, so do check, they are there to keep you up-to-dated and see what's happening. Please do send in photos and reports of your group's activities for inclusion on the website, we could really do with more of them.

Our programme of monthly talks has been a varied and interesting one and these meetings continue to be very well attended. In addition there have been various outings throughout the year, much enjoyed by the participants. These included a visit to Bristol to see the SS Great Britain, a trip to Dartmouth and a shopping and sight-seeing day to Bath.

Chairman's report continued:-

For a third year, member Mark Griffin was our Quiz Master for the Christmas Quiz, an event much enjoyed by all who took part. Needless to say, he's been booked again for this year!

Regular Coffee Mornings, held in alternate months, have now been introduced to give members a chance to socialise with one another, prospective new members are also welcome to attend. Thanks must go to the team of volunteers who have taken on the running of these events.

A special Coffee Morning for new members was held at the Golf Club in February to welcome them to the U3A. A Group Leaders discussion was held earlier, in November in the WI Hall, followed by a Buffet Lunch organised by members of the committee.

Various members of the committee have continued to attend regular network meetings with other West Dorset U3As, we're all very different and it's always interesting to find how other branches do things.

I'd like to thank all the committee members for their continued hard work – there's a lot that goes on behind the scenes, without which we wouldn't have a U3A at all! However, committees are not permanent institutions, our constitution does limit the length of service for each person, to encourage new members to come forward with fresh ideas. We are already looking for someone to take over the organising of Events and Outings, without which there will be no more outings after the current programme has run its course, while next year other committee members will be standing down. So please do consider putting yourself forward – our U3A needs you.

Thanks must also go to all our wonderful Group Leaders and facilitators for providing such a varied range of groups and for keeping them running so well. Thanks too to all those who help in so many other ways, your contributions are gratefully received by all of us.

Here's looking forward to our ninth year, while perhaps we should start planning for the one after that, as it will be our tenth anniversary.

### **SPECIAL RESOLUTION:**

Pat explained that as stated in the Agenda, this resolution is to amend our Constitution with the adoption of a revised Charitable Purposes clause at para. 3 i. The revised clause, which is given in the Notes to the Agenda, was then read to the meeting, the wording being as follows:

‘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, residing in Bridport and its surrounding locality.’

Pat gave some background to the need for us to make this change: The Third Age Trust and the Charity Commission have recently agreed this revised Charitable Purposes clause and all U3As have been requested to amend their constitutions to incorporate the updated clause.

Adoption of the resolution was then proposed by Sue Jones, seconded by Sue Herman, and carried by the meeting with a unanimous show of hands.

### **TREASURER’S PRESENTATION OF ACCOUNTS:**

Our bank account stands at £10,252, the summary of the years accounts are attached to the minutes. Valerie went through the accounts and there were no queries.

A member queried the use of plastic covering for The Third Age Magazine, the magazine is sent via Head Office and a suggestion will be noted to them.

Valerie thanked Kevin Senior for auditing the accounts and noted he is prepared to continue next year as Independent Financial Examiner.

The accounts were proposed and seconded by Delhia Evans and Terry Harrison.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

Proposed to stand again are Pat Grafton (Chairman), John Collins (Business Secretary) and Valerie Gierth (Treasurer) this was proposed and seconded by Margie Lee and Ray Stanford.

**ELECTION OF THE GENERAL COMMITTEE:**

Diana Coleridge, Mary Thomas, Alan Hobby, Mick Holgate, John Walker, Jennifer Gould, Julian Rosbrook and Jennie Carter were all prepared to stand again, this was proposed and seconded by Chrissy Harris and Roe Windsor.

**APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL EXAMINER:**

Kevin Senior is prepared to continue as our Independent Financial Examiner this was proposed and seconded by Maggie Peak and Alan Haybourne.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

It was suggested that group leaders held an emergency telephone number for members of their groups in case of an accident and illness. This was thought to be already included in the data information but the committee will discuss the situation at their next committee meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.25pm.

Signed

