

## MINUTES OF THE THIRTEENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER BY ZOOM

- PRESENT** Annie Curtis (Chair), Tim Smith (Treasurer), Sue Dodds-Smith (Secretary), Maggie Wall (Membership Secretary), Brian Collett (Webmaster), Chris Rowe (Interest Group Leader) Margaret Griffiths (Speaker Secretary), Christine Pratt (Newsletter and Archive Secretary), Jill Onley (Village Hall Representative), Hazel Wilson (Meeting and Greeting Secretary) and 50+ attending on Zoom
- 1. APOLOGIES** Betty Wiles, Karen Pirie and Kim Mabbutt.
- 2. ZOOM MEETING** Due to the Covid pandemic and accordance with the Charity Commission regulations it was agreed by the Committee at the July meeting that the Annual General Meeting, scheduled for September, would be postponed and take place in December by Zoom.
- 2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM**  
Copies of the Minutes were previously circulated to the membership by email. Christine Rowe proposed, and Jill Onley seconded the motion that the minutes of the last AGM on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be taken as read and accepted as a true record. The motion was carried with David and Paula Cochrane abstaining. A copy of the signed minutes will be posted on the website.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING**  
No matters arising
- 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The usual date for the AGM of Brixworth and District U3A is the first Wednesday in September. However, this year the Coronavirus has made things very different. So instead of sitting in Brixworth Village Hall in September and reporting on the business of the year face to face, the AGM for 2020 will be held in December via Zoom. Therefore, I have decided to write my AGM report to the Committee this year and combine it with my monthly Good Afternoon Everyone letter.

Brixworth and District U3A was initially started more than thirteen years ago when there was a request in the Brixworth Bulletin from Gerry Dobson and Philip Pomeroy, asking if anyone was interested in starting up a U3A in Brixworth. As a member of another U3A, I made contact with them as I was interested. We three held a meeting in Gerry's kitchen followed by a Launch meeting shortly afterwards in the Library Community Room .....and Brixworth and District U3A held its first meeting a month later in 2007, with a membership of around 30. Most members of that Inaugural Committee are still very loyal members of our U3A and I would like to thank them all for their ongoing support.

As membership grew, currently 250+, it became necessary to find new premises and so a move was made to Brixworth Village Hall. The last meeting there in March was the very successful exhibition from the Interest Groups. This really highlighted the wide range of subjects that the Groups cover and showed just how much hard work goes on to maintain the keen interests of members. Sincere thanks to everyone.

Just a few days after this March meeting, Lockdown 1 was announced and so face to face meetings could not continue. Since the 2019 AGM, Interest Groups had continued to flourish and indeed some new ones were established. We have all enjoyed a wide range of interesting Speakers up until then, too. A Christmas Lunch at the Golf Club was enjoyed by almost 70 members. New members joined. The early part of 2020 was ticking along nicely until this dreadful virus brought everything to a severe halt. I remember writing an email in March that said, "4 days down, only 11 weeks and 3 days to go!" Little did I know then about the outcome!

Now here we are, 9 months later and still unable to meet face to face in large groups. I know that members are really missing meeting up with others but we all have to keep safe and follow the Government advice. In the summer lots of hard work was undertaken by the Committee to check on COVID arrangements in Group meeting venues. Just as the first Group was given permission by the Committee to restart, the Government issued the directive 'Groups of 6' only.

Not to be defeated, the Committee looked at alternative methods of communication with members. A closed Facebook group was established. Some Interest Groups communicated by email or other means. Regular Newsletters were emailed to members and those without an email address were paired with a friend who could print one off for them. The

Committee continued to meet using email .....and then Zoom. Good old Zoom! Love it or hate it, it is certainly a good way of meeting up with others. Certainly the 4 Main Meeting presentations that we have been lucky enough to secure have been excellent on Zoom. Now we have the virtual AGM .....and indeed the Main Meetings for certainly January and February 2021 will also be on Zoom. After that and until members can meet face to face, then I feel sure Zoom and regular Newsletters will be the modus operandi. | Wish I had bought some shares in it!]

Now as we move into December there is no glass of sherry as usual for this, our December meeting and AGM. No Christmas lunch at the Golf Club; no celebrations within the Interest Groups.....but what we do have is the friendship, kindness, vibrancy and support of all our fellow U3A members. Thank you each and every one of you for your support in whatever way it is given. Again, it is really appreciated by everyone.

As I come to the end of my Chairmanship, I really appreciate the knowledge that there is a very strong group of people who are prepared to be voted onto the new Committee, even in these unusual times. May I offer Belinda and the new Committee every success for the future. I know I will really miss it after 13 years on the Committee and as the outgoing Chairman .....but there are other things that I would now like to do that often, unfortunately, fall on the first Wednesday of the month or I cannot undertake due to some U3A commitments. Nevertheless, I will continue to be a lifelong member and strong supporter of Brixworth and District U3A and I send everyone my very best wishes for the future.

May I wish you all a very Happy Christmas and stay safe and healthy as we go into 2021.

Annie Curtis read out a letter received from Northampton Sailability acknowledging a donation made from our u3a in memory of Gabriel Leeming.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Tim Smith presented the audited and final accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020. Paula Jones proposed, and Lyn Aitken seconded the motion that the accounts be accepted. Carried unanimously.

The Treasurer proposed that the subscription fee for next year be reduced to £6 for existing members and £12 for new members. Peter Davies suggested that this was too low and we should bear in mind the necessity to build up funds to purchase new equipment should it be necessary. The Treasurer pointed out that even with the reduced subscription fee our funds would be more than sufficient to cover any such requirements. Ann Plackett initially supported Peter Davies's view but accepted the Treasurers explanation of existing funds. The resolution was put to the meeting and passed.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Sue Dodds-Smith took the chair for this item and stated that Belinda Collett had been proposed as the new Chair by Clive West and seconded by Lynda Stevenson. Belinda introduced herself to the meeting and thanked Annie Curtis for her contribution to our u3a over many years. The proposal was carried unanimously.

Sue Dodds-Smith also thanked the retiring Chair, Annie Curtis, for her long service to Brixworth & District U3A. In recognition of all that Annie has done for Brixworth & District u3a the committee wished to propose that Annie be appointed Honorary President. This proposal was carried unanimously.

Belinda Collett took the Chair.

Ruby Harris has proposed, and Jane Slinn seconded the motion that Sue Dodds-Smith be appointed Secretary. The motion was carried unanimously.

#### ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

Tim Smith and Chris Rowe have served one year of their three year term.

The following nominations have been received for the six vacant positions:-

Margaret Griffiths	Proposed by Angela Smith.	Seconded by Eileen Truby
John Nicholson	Proposed by Irene Neale.	Seconded by Rosemary Jenkins
Jill Onley	Proposed by Irene Neale	Seconded by Wendy Faddon
Christine Pratt	Proposed by Judy Smith	Seconded by Gerry Dobson
Maggie Wall	Proposed by Jane Neill	Seconded by Betty Wiles
Hazel Wilson	Proposed by Judy Beaudoin	Seconded by Bev King

As a new prospective committee member, John Nicholson, introduced himself to the meeting and the other committee members introduced themselves and gave a brief description of their roles.

There being no other nominations a vote was taken and all six nominees were unanimously elected.

Brian Collett has retired from the committee after serving ten year. Tim Smith thanked him for all his hard work. It was very much appreciated and he will be missed.

#### 8. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR.

Judi Beaudoin proposed, and Annie Curtis seconded the motion that Ian Barrett be appointed Auditor for the coming year. Carried unanimously.

#### 9. ANY MOTIONS PUT FORWARD

None

#### 10. MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None.

#### 11. DATE OF NEXT AGM

1<sup>st</sup> September 2021

Behinda Collett

01/12/21