

Cotswold Link u3a network
Minutes of AGM held on 22 March 2024
at Honeybourne Village Hall near Evesham

Present:

Sue Russell (Chair), Ann Kelly (Treasurer), Marion Collighan (Secretary), Jenny Harrison (committee member), Chris Hucker (committee member), Alan Russell (Beacon), Allan Walmsley (Vice Chair of Third Age Trust).

Gillian Thompson, Margaret Cleverley & Valerie Hayward (Bishops Cleeve), Anthea Whitehead & Mike Byrne (Bromsgrove), David Edwards (Cam & Dursley) Ken Inglis & Janet Ropner (Cheltenham), Paul Grierson & Jane Moore (Churchdown), Kevin Noles, Roger & Carolyn Taylor and Paul Zuest (Cirencester), Roslyn Gowers, Diane Nicholls & Nicky Neill (Evesham & District), Denis Riley & Clive Harper (Gloucester), Kim Brinkworth & Anni Plummer (Hereford), Alasdair Gibson (Ledbury), Sue Dalley (Malvern), Tony Snowdon (Newent), Angela Hope (North Cotswold), Sally Whyte & Jackie Jolley (Pershore), Sue Gee (Redditch), Richard Bedford & Sylvia Pearce (Stroud), Carmel Burton (Tetbury & District), Duncan Fraser (Tewkesbury), Paul McDonald (Winchcombe), Adie Ditchburn (Worcester).

Welcome from the Chair of Evesham & District u3a

Roslyn Gowers of Evesham & District u3a, welcomed everyone to this AGM on behalf of the Chair and explained the domestic arrangements. Evesham has 86 groups, about 970 members and 49 visitor members.

1. Apologies for absence

There were voting delegates representing 20 u3as out of the 27 Cotswold Link members, which is 74%, making the meeting quorate.

Apologies had been received from: Myrtle Moreton-Cox & Debbie Sirett (Cam & Dursley), Deborah Andrews (Evesham & District), Brendan Kelly (Leominster), Jules Everett (Newent), Lorna Marshall (Northleach), Mark Eardley (Ross-on-Wye), Bernadette Bell (Tetbury & District), Ian Barber (Tewkesbury), Roger Steer (Thornbury), Phil Hawthorne (Winchcombe), Jean Jackson (WM Regional Trustee), Susan Parker (SW Regional Trustee).

2. Acceptance of minutes of AGM held on 18 March 2023

No issues were raised with the minutes from the previous half yearly meeting in March 2023. Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Jenny Harrison and seconded by Paul McDonald. The minutes were approved with 1 abstention.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes

There were no matters arising.

4. Report from the Chair

Sue welcomed the delegates to the meeting.

She explained that once again, both regional trustees have had to pull out of our meeting. Allan Walmsley, Vice-chair of the Third Age Trust agreed to take their place.

This is a time of change for the u3a movement both Liz Thackray and Sam Mauger are stepping down in the Autumn so there will be new people heading the movement. I hope you are all aware of the FFTF proposals. If you have any queries or quibbles or views at all, I am sure you will have an opportunity to talk to either Sam or Allan at some point today.

Sue thanked Bishops Cleeve for hosting us last year at the 2023 AGM and Half Yearly meeting. The theme was "Communication" with Chris Wardle from Cheltenham u3a and Alan Russell from Worcester u3a giving talks in the afternoon.

In the Summer we held a successful Special Interest Day on the theme of "Art and Patronage". It was reassuring to have more people attend than the previous year. It is beginning to look like we are finally shaking off the adverse effects of lockdown, although I understand that Covid is still out in the world.

In July, Liz Thackray visited the south of our area. She was able to meet with some of our members. I believe a very pleasant time was had by all!

Our Autumn meeting was held at Malvern with a theme of "The structure of the u3a", being delivered by Alison May, Head of Member Services. Alison attended via zoom and answered questions from the floor. The Air and Share session included discussion about what members wanted from the Link. Once again, many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the event in particular the organising committee from Malvern.

I shall be stepping down from the role as Cotswold Link Chair later in the meeting. It has been a privilege to serve on the committee and to have the opportunity to meet so many of you. I want to pick out what for me has been some of the highlights of my time as Chair.

Coming back from Covid has been slow but we are making progress. Last year at this event, we had delegates from 14 out of 26 members being 54%. This year we have 20 out of 27 u3as here and we were able to welcome Redditch to the network during last year.

The Peer Support groups are doing well. In addition to Treasurers, we now have groups for Groups Coordinators, Business Secretaries and Chairs. This is the most useful thing Cotswold Link can do for members in my view, giving everyone the chance to share ideas, problems and solutions to problems.

I was asked yesterday if we have any u3as that have trainer roles specifically in the use of SiteWorks, Beacon and general IT. If you do, or think you might be interested in the idea, please seek out Adie Ditchburn and have a chat with him.

Members of the committee have attended Network Link meetings throughout the year and I shall continue to be Chair of Network Link for now. In that role I have

been active over the last year in the Pilot Council. A decision about whether to go forward with a Council will be made this Spring and if approved by the Board, will be put to members as a resolution at the Trust AGM in October.

I'd like to end my report by thanking you all for the support I have received from members but most particularly from the members of the committee. All our activities are a team effort, which they do brilliantly.

There were no questions.

5. Report from the Treasurer

Ann circulated a new version of the accounts to that sent before the meeting. She explained that the unrepresented cheque mentioned in last year's accounts had caused her to misstate the opening balance on the first version. The corrected version shows a balance at the end of December 2023 of £1,783.03, compared to £1,388.42 at the end of 2022. There were no questions.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Jane Moore and seconded by Richard Bedford. The accounts for 2023 were approved unanimously.

6. Election of new executive committee members

Sue explained that she is stepping down as Chair but is willing to stay on as a member of the committee. Chris Hucker (Malvern) is willing to stand as Chair and has been proposed by Mike Concoran (Malvern) and seconded by Hugh Wakeling (Ledbury). Chris was elected unanimously.

Carmel Burton (Tetbury & District) is willing to stand as a member of the committee and has been proposed by Stephanie Dale (Tetbury & District) and seconded by Susan Wild (Cirencester). Carmel was elected with one abstention (herself).

The committee members Ann Kelly (Worcester) as Treasurer, Marion Collighan (Cheltenham) as Secretary, Jenny Harrison (Ledbury) as member and Sue Russell (Worcester) as member confirmed their willingness continue on the committee. All were elected unanimously for a 1-year term.

7. AOB

There was no other business.

8. Date and time of next meeting – The next AGM will be hosted by Ledbury on Thursday 27th March 2025 in Ledbury Community Hall.

Signed..... Date