

# **MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE COTSWOLD LINK**

**held via Zoom**

**on Wednesday 24 March 2021 at 3pm**

## **Present:**

Jeremy Furtado (chair), Dennis Chamberlain (treasurer), Jane Mason (secretary), David Barrett (webmaster), Susan Russell (committee member), Clive Harper (committee member), Jennifer Harrison (committee member), Laurence Wale (co-host), Marion Collighan (minutes).

Eileen Richmond (Bromyard), Mike Philpott (Ledbury), Jim Christie (Ross-on-Wye), Theresa Howard & Mike Byrne (Bromsgrove), Gay Enoch (Droitwich), Chris Wolstencroft, Alison Williams, John Boon & David Keeling (Evesham), Sally White (Pershore), Richard Phillips (Malvern), Sally Ferrers (Bishops Cleeve), Susan Dodd (Bourton), Susan Duncan Gibson & Alan Keith (Cam & Dursley), Janet Ropner and Chris Wardle (Cheltenham), Louise Keeling (Churchdown), Ian Harvey, Tony Natt & Anne Vardy (Cirencester), Michael Vann (Fairford), Marian Carroll (Gloucester), Clive Edgington & Joan Toon (Stroud), Lawrence Moss & Anita Stride (Tetbury), Phil Hawthorn (Winchcombe), Ian Smith (Unknown u3a).

Ian McCannah (National chair) Allan Walmsley (Regional Trustee West Midlands), Susan Parker (Regional Trustee South West), Adam Walton (Beacon team), Ken Wheatley (Beacon team), Paul Martinez (National Office).

## **Apologies:**

Marilyn Reynolds (Ross-on-Wye), Margaret Bainbridge (Bourton) before the meeting. Ian Barber & Duncan Fraser (Tewkesbury) during the meeting.

Jeremy Furtado, as chair, welcomed everyone to this AGM. He asked the participants if there were any who objected to the meeting being recorded to make the secretary's job easier. The recording would be deleted within the next fortnight. There were no objections.

- 1. Minutes of AGM 28 October 2020:** There were 2 corrections to the minutes; the comment about TED talks was removed and the timing of the refund of money for the cancelled in-person AGM was corrected. With these corrections there were no objections to the minutes, which were therefore approved.
- 2. Matters Arising:** There were no matters arising.
- 3. Chairman's Report –** Jeremy reminded attendees that before the pandemic, Cotswold link organised two in person meetings a year, hosted by a member u3a. In addition, a Special Interest Day was organised by the link committee, where invited speakers would give presentations on an agreed theme. None of these in person meetings were possible throughout 2020.

Meanwhile, he is aware that u3as are contending with reductions in membership, coupled with occasional changes at executive officer level, as well as a transfer to a whole new way of working, i.e., online. The Trust acknowledges this shift to electronic communication and would like each network link to be a major conduit for communication with every member u3a. Your committee hopes to implement that idea in the months to come and post pandemic to hold meetings as before, where members can meet in much more convivial surroundings. However, for this meeting we have been glad to be able to assemble key speakers who will address us on different themes over Zoom.

Your committee is pleased to announce a series of talks over Zoom this July as a replacement for the Special Interest Day. We do not think that there will be a venue that can offer safe accommodation for attendees for the time being. The talks are all free to members. They will take place on the 1st, 7th and 14th July, with booking via Eventbrite.

Jeremy thanked his committee: Jane Mason (Secretary), Dennis Chamberlain (Treasurer), David Barrett (Webmaster). Sue Russell, Clive Harper and Jenny Harrison, for their considerable help over the past few months. Jane Mason is leaving the committee as she has come to the end of her term. Jeremy expressed special thanks to Jane for her enormous help over the last year.

Finally, Jeremy announced that he will be retiring as Chair at the next AGM in March 2022. He hopes that a replacement can be found by then, as he would like the Link to continue to play its part in the supporting what u3a has to offer.

**4. Treasurer's Report:** The accounts had been circulated before the meeting showing a balance at the end of December 2020 of £1361.90. It was agreed at the last committee meeting that the 2020 subscription would be extended to 24 months, so there will be no payment of fees until January 2022. There were no objections to the accounts, which were therefore approved.

**5. Committee nominations:** Marion Collighan (Cheltenham) as Secretary, was proposed by Janet Ropner (Cheltenham) and seconded by Sally Ferrers (Bishops Cleeve. There were no other candidates and no objections, so Marion Collighan was elected as Secretary for a 3-year term.

**6. Date of Next Meeting** – Next AGM 23 March 2022, to be hosted by Stroud u3a.

Signed..... Date .....