

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Coventry Sherbourne U3A.
Held on Thursday 7th February 2019 at Wyken Community Centre
Westmorland Road Coventry CV2 5BP**

1. **Apologies:** Mike Copeland, Joy Copeland, Marion Hodgkins
2. **Minutes of the AGM held 1st February 2018:** Approved by members present and signed by Chair.
3. **Matters Arising:** None
4. **Annual Reports:**

Chair's Report

The Chair, Jenny Smith, addressed the meeting and reported that Coventry Sherbourne continued to flourish had another successful year. She reported that two new groups had started, Culture Vultures and All our Yesterdays and two more will be starting. The History of Everything this month and Play Reading in March. The Sunday Lunch group will continue despite the organiser for many years standing down. This is due to members taking turns to arrange venues and bookings. Unfortunately, this year there will be no Strawberry Tea due to lack of volunteers. She told members that if someone wished to take over the large commitment to organise the Strawberry Tea to see her after the meeting or it would not go ahead at July's meeting.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Ann Karabinas, addressed the meeting and wished everyone "Good Afternoon". She said she felt that 2018 was a successful year for Coventry Sherbourne U3A. At the end of December the membership was 108 which was a little down on the previous year although there were a number of new members. She told members that word of mouth was our best method of recruitment and to invite friends and neighbours to attend as guests to see if they liked our group. Ann then turned her attention to the Balance sheet that had been distributed to members. She explained the figures in detail, beginning by saying that our income derives firstly from subscriptions and that the fee will stay the same for this year but if costs rise for speaker fees or room hire they may have to increase next year. Book and jigsaw sales along with the raffle also raise our funds. She went on to talk about activities that involved putting money through our community accounts and were shown on the balance sheet. A skittles afternoon, a trip to Blenheim Palace, two theatre trips, the strawberry tea, the 25th anniversary celebration and the Christmas lunch. She asked for members to give their appreciation to thank all those members who organised the events. Ann reported that the bank balance compared favourably with that of 2017 so our funds were staying pretty constant.

The accounts were audited, as they were last year, by Mr John Hone who again waived his fee. She thanked everyone for listening and asked if there were any questions. None were put forward.

5. Vote on Object Clause change in Coventry Sherbourne Constitution

William Day addressed the meeting. He advised the members that to ensure that all U3As are complying with the latest guidance from the Charity Commission we need to make some changes to our constitution. All U3A activities either educational or social must come within the objects of the U3A and be included in our financial returns. He explained that it didn't mean we have to stop doing things but as we include social events in our activities we need to change our constitution to the wording that the Charity Commission has agreed. It is important that our social activities are legitimate U3A activities and will be covered for insurance purposes. The object clause which the Charity Commission has agreed to is:-

"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."

He stated it is the last phrase which allows the vast majority of what could be regarded as social activities to be legitimate U3A activities. He gave the following examples of these activities: lunches and coffee mornings, trips to the theatre and to educational establishments such as galleries, museums and places of local interest and heritage. As our constitution is 25 years old, the committee feel it would be in our best interest to adopt the new object clause to bring us in line with other U3As and ensure all our activities are covered by the U3A insurance policies. He concluded that in order to make this amendment, the assent of not less than two thirds of the members of the U3A present at this AGM was needed and therefore it didn't help if people abstain from voting. He asked members if there was anything that they needed clarifying before the vote. No questions were asked. William put the vote to the members present "I would like to put it to the members here to vote that we change the object clause in the constitution of Coventry Sherbourne U3A to the object clause agreed by the Charity Commission".

The motion was carried unanimously.

6. Vote to no longer post the monthly Newsletter

Ness Makepeace addressed members and explained the situation of getting copies of the newsletter to members who do not attend the general meeting. She said that most members had provided an e-mail address so they would continue to be sent an electronic copy and also the newsletter was available on the website. Members could also elect another member to collect their newsletter for them but due to the rising cost of postage and administration involved she proposed that posting newsletters to home addresses would no longer take place. She asked members to raise their hands if they were in agreement with this proposal.

The motion was carried unanimously.

7. Election of Officers and Committee Members:

Mike Copland was elected as Chair. William Day was elected as Vice Chair. Ann Karabinas was re-elected as Treasurer. Marion Hodgkins, Joy Copeland, Jenny Smith and Ness Makepeace were elected as committee members.

8. Appointment of Auditor;

Mr John Hone will be invited to audit the records.

9. Any Other Business

None

The Annual General Meeting closed at 14.22.