

Grange & District U3A
Minutes of the Grange & District Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022
Held at the Victoria Hall 19 April 2022

Present

The meeting commenced at 10:15 with fifty-nine members present.

1 Chairman's welcome

The Chairman welcomed the members to the first face-to-face meeting since 2019.

2 Apologies

A total of 12 apologies had been received

3 Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The 2021 AGM had been held remotely/offline because of the Covid lockdown restrictions in place at the time.

The minutes were agreed by a show of hands as an accurate record of the 2021 AGM.

4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the 2021 AGM

5 Chairman's report

Good morning and welcome to our first face-to-face AGM for 2 years. Hopefully it is a positive sign that normal activities will continue to return and my thanks to all of you for coming here to support it. After all our u3a would not be able to function without an elected committee to guide it.

Last summer when I was elected as your Chairman I was not quite sure what to expect but sure enough it has proved to have been an interesting 10 months. At that time, we were deep in the pandemic and most of our interest groups were reliant on Zoom to keep functioning. Some, along with our monthly meetings, unfortunately, had to be suspended but thanks to Hilary's great work as Speaker Finder she was able to come up with some excellent speakers to talk to us via Zoom. Eventually with Government restrictions relaxing we held a relaunch meeting in September to cautiously mark the transition back to face-to-face interaction. Although your committee felt it prudent to cap the numbers it was a success, with many of our Groups represented and an opportunity to see Malcolm Kimber's great film on the history of our u3a. We used the occasion to cut a cake (baked by a member) celebrating our 21st anniversary which was made extra special by the attendance of our remaining founder member, Barbara Gurr.

Since then, we have held live monthly meetings here in the Victoria Hall and most of our Groups have been able to resume their normal activities. I would like to thank all Group Leaders who have made this possible.

The autumn brought 2 events where I was honoured to represent Grange & District u3a as your Chairman. The first was to attend the licensing service for 2 new clergy to welcome them to our district. The second was to lay the u3a wreath at Grange memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Last month we were able to hold our Enrolment meeting face to face, thereby enabling our members to renew their membership and chat to Group Leaders while enjoying some refreshments. We also gained some 20 new members. I had the pleasure of making a presentation on behalf of our u3a to Sally Haines to thank her for all her work, as manager of the Victoria Hall and to wish her well in her retirement. Her successor, Amanda Hunter, is now in post so please make her welcome.

The Beacon system incorporating member database, email communication and finance is now well established and working well. It also enables us to easily communicate any urgent

information to you as necessary, and in some ways replaces the much-loved Digital Diary. This supports our quarterly Newsletter in keeping members up to date with our activities. With an eye to the future, and thanks to John Eakins, we are developing a hybrid Zoom/Live meeting system to assist some of our groups to keep in touch with all of their members. On your behalf I would like to thank all our committee members for their work and dedication. I am personally grateful to our Secretary, Ged Jones, who has endeavoured to keep me on the constitutional path and, happily, he is standing for re-election. Also, my thanks to Sheila Handley who is retiring after many years in several important roles, including Treasurer and Group Liaison.

Finally, a plea from my heart. We have around 500 members and we continually need members to step forward to help run our Groups and events. If you are in a Group that does not already have a nominated deputy please consider offering your services. It's a great way to become more involved. My wife and I started our involvement some 10 years ago by delivering the Newsletter and look where that led!

And we are still delivering the newsletter.

Thank you

Brian Loader

19/4/2022

6 Treasurer's report

Our Community Account is very healthy, sitting at just under £11,000. This is mainly due to the large number of members who renewed their 2022/2023 subscriptions at the tail end of the previous Financial year. As a matter of interest we have less than 90 members who have still to renew. Because of the Pandemic restrictions there have been fewer monthly meetings and therefore outgoings, including Hall Hire and Speaker's Fees, have been substantially lower. Though you will be glad to hear that the Zoom licence we took on during 2020 has been retained and we anticipate using Zoom for Hybrid meetings, which are being trialled, and possibly more Zoom meetings when members may not be as enthusiastic about venturing out on wet & dark winter evenings.

As mentioned at previous AGMs we have reduced the costs of the Newsletter by changing to an on-line printing company. This has proved to be a great success, not only with lower invoices but also reduced time which we had to allow for printing/delivery. In fact the latest issue was delivered 3 days ahead of schedule.

Membership Subscription to the Third Age Trust or "Capitation" has just risen to £4 per registered member with an additional lower charge of £1 each for the Beacon Administration Licence. Additionally the reduced number of members receiving the TAM magazine has also reduced our annual payment, approx 50% have opted out.

This year's major outgoing was for a new laptop, to supplement the ageing Windows 7 device already held, hopefully we should get many years of use from it.

Last year was the first to fully implement the Beacon system to help with our Administration

This has already proved useful with the Membership Secretary and streamlines the accounting side. This year's Audit went much more smoothly, as Tony Harrison will no doubt agree.

Our Holding Account, sitting at just under £3,500, is used for trips by Out & About, Art Appreciation, and recently provided funding to allow the new PickleBall group to buy the necessary hardware to get the group up & running. These Groups & Activities are not intended to make a profit but use the Holding Account to manage their funds. We were lucky in that the £590 deposit we had paid to Traveller's Choice, for trips that were subsequently cancelled because of Covid, was honoured by them and used against trips to Clitheroe & Dumfries at the end of 2021. As an aside, if anyone has not yet reclaimed any monies deposited for cancelled trips please let me know & we will arrange refunds. Overall

the Holding account has approximately £1500 in “Ringfenced” funds for many groups including, Whist, Table Tennis, Out & About and Friendly Bridge.

7 Appointment of Honorary Auditor

Dr Tony Harrison is willing to continue as the Honorary Auditor

8 Elections to the Executive Committee

a) Honorary Secretary

Ged Jones’ three-year term as Honorary Secretary expired at this AGM.

However, no other nominations had been received. Ged had agreed to stand for re-election and this was agreed by a show of hands.

b) Executive Committee members (3 vacancies)

The constitutional change agreed at the 2021 AGM increased the size of the Executive Committee to 11 members (including the Honorary Officers). As Sheila Handley was stepping down this created 3 vacancies on the committee.

Mick Love and Christine Patrick had been duly nominated and their election to the Executive Committee was agreed by show of hands.

9 Any Other Business

David Ramsbottom asked how to opt out of receiving the Third Age Magazine (TAM).

Michael McCormick advised David to contact the Membership Secretary (Susan Jones) who would set the appropriate flag in Beacon.

Peter Coomber asked that the accounts and Treasurer’s report be circulated to the members. It was confirmed this will be done.

Margaret Brennand suggested that non-members attending our monthly general meeting be charged £2 entry fee (members will continue to pay £1). The Chairman responded that this will be considered at the next Executive Committee meeting.

Jan Tomlinson asked that the committee member names be circulated to the membership. Jan also enquired about the status of a successor to Sheila Handley as Groups Liaison Officer.