

Harrogate u3a

Registered Charity: 1038457

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wesley Centre, Harrogate Friday 2 December 2022, 2pm

Present

92 members.

Welcome

The Chair, Richard Cyster, welcomed attendees.

Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Wendy Allison, David and Margaret Bainbridge, David and Dawn Blyfield, Anne Marie Brayson, Valerie Colley, Elizabeth Craddock, Margaret Evison, Brian Graham, Kate Greig, Carol Harrington, Linda Hosegood, Susan Howes, Steve Hutchison, Nicola Kendall, Ivan and Barbara Peel, Angela Perschke, Sue Slocombe, Frank and Sue Smith, Brian Souter, Denise Spencer, Alison Telfer, Robert and Jan Tipler, Angela Tippey, and Claire Wearmouth.

Minutes of the AGM held on 19 November 2021

Following a show of hands, the majority of the members accepted the minutes as a true record and voted in favour of accepting them as such. They were duly signed by the Chair.

Chair's Report including the Future of Harrogate u3a (Richard Cyster)

This has been an eventful year for Harrogate u3a, which has now slowly emerged from the effects of the Covid pandemic. You, our members, have kept faith with us and decided to renew your membership. Current membership is around 800 including many new members, which is always great to see. There are around 145 members who are yet to renew, so we anticipate some increase in our membership still. It has also been good to see that new members have become involved in social activities and groups. In the coming year we will concentrate on talking more to our current members, and on attracting new ones, with the intention of making the joining and renewal process much more user-friendly.

Your u3a has been keen to investigate what more we can do. In this regard, we have been looking at other u3as in the region with a view to possible networking arrangements which should open up even more groups and social activities for

members. This has resulted in us joining up with WestNet, a collaboration between Ilkley & District, Bradford, Craven (Skipton), and Settle u3as.

Over the year Harrogate u3a has also started new groups, and experimented with different kinds of social events and venues including the successful quizzes and the recent Treasure Hunt. More ideas are always welcome!

We currently have around 57 groups, delivering a wide variety of activities. These groups are managed by a team of dedicated Group Leaders and volunteers. During the coming year it is intended that your u3a will focus on member interests and activity waiting lists. It is hoped that we can increase and/or duplicate group activities on offer, to match more closely with those that members tell us they want. The success of this initiative will be entirely dependent on volunteer members coming forward to manage and support new groups. In this regard, the trustees – with the help of members - intend to develop support procedures, assistance and training of volunteers.

History has recently been made by the running of our first ever Planning Day. Led by your Committee, a group of members got together to look at what is done well in our u3a and what is done less well with a view to looking at how things can be improved. Results from this event are currently being collated and hopefully can be transformed into actions soon! You should have recently received a summary of the Planning Day's findings.

However, big challenges lie ahead with the urgent need to ensure that we continue to fill all our Committee vacancies and that we have enough support from members to continue to operate. Accordingly, I feel I must reiterate what I said last year concerning the importance of the Harrogate u3a ethos. Our u3a will continue to thrive only if we can depend on the active support of our membership, including leading and supporting Interest Groups, volunteering at Coffee Mornings and Open Meetings and, of course, joining the Committee. We are a membership organisation that depends on its members to survive.

Our Treasurer will report on our financial position but I'm happy to be able to tell you that we are well placed to hold members' subscriptions at the current level for a further year, subject to our ability to weather expected increases in the cost of living. Our move from CAF Bank to Lloyds has helped us eliminate bank charges and the increasing willingness of members to renew online has also helped.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to the Committee for all the support they have given me over the past year. Thank you also to Chris Nixon who is stepping down as Speaker Finder and to Stella Barclay who is stepping down as Secretary. A very special thanks to Anne McKillop who stepped up to the post of Acting Chair when I took on the role of Treasurer. She too is leaving the Committee and will be much missed. Thanks to Val Cooke for the ever-informative Stray Bits and to Brian Graham for his support at our Open Meetings. Thanks to our u3a Group Leaders for their time, their commitment and their sheer inventiveness in keeping u3a going. Lastly, thanks to you, the membership, for keeping faith and believing in Harrogate u3a and its future. After four years on the Committee, first as Secretary,

then as Chair and for a time as Acting Treasurer, I too am stepping down. I wish the new Committee all the best for the future.

Anne McKillop reiterated what the Chair had said in his address. She offered her thanks and those of the Committee to Richard Cyster for all his work in the various roles he had carried out in the past. She wished Harrogate u3a and the Committee well.

Financial Report and Examined Accounts (Jeffrey Jones)

The Acting Treasurer presented the Trustees' report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022. These had been circulated to members prior to the AGM and hard copies were available on the day.

Jeffrey Jones explained that Harrogate u3a was a non-company charity with an annual income of less than £250,000. Therefore, it was permissible to submit accounts to the Charity Commission on a receipts and payments basis rather than on an accruals basis.

The accounts had been examined and signed off by Cook Trotter.

The Acting Treasurer asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Keith Wighton proposed that the accounts be adopted by the meeting. This proposal was seconded by Jenny Thompson.

Members voted in favour of accepting the accounts. They will now be submitted for publication on the Charity Commission's website.

Appointment of the Independent Examiner

It was proposed that Cook Trotter be asked to continue for a further year as Independent Examiner. Valerie Cooke proposed acceptance by the meeting and Ros Gillingham seconded this. Members voted in favour of accepting this proposal.

Election of Committee Officers and Non-Officer Committee Members

The Membership Secretary (**Lorraine Lawson**) was elected in 2021 to serve for a period of three years until 2024.

The following were nominated to serve on the Committee from 2 December 2022 for three years (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) and for one year (Non-Officer Committee Members).

Alan Watkins for Chair, proposed by Mary Davis and seconded by Patricia Healy,

Ian Munday for Vice-Chair, proposed by Margaret Bainbridge and seconded by David Bainbridge,

Nicola Kendall for Secretary, proposed by Helen Westbrook and seconded by Susan Firth,

Jeffrey Jones for Treasurer, proposed by Nicola Kendall and seconded by Stephen Hutchison,

Stella Barclay, proposed by Thomas Malcolm Jones and seconded by Nick Anderson,

Beulah Chatten, proposed by Katherine O'Loughlin and seconded by Maureen Boland,

Stephen Hutchison, proposed by Alan Whinnett and seconded by Bob Newbould,

Alison Harris, proposed by John Harris and seconded by Susanne Frusher,

Cheryl Johnston, proposed by Jennifer Hutchison and seconded by Stephen Hutchison,

Philip Johnston, proposed by Jennifer Hutchison and seconded by Stephen Hutchison,

Diane Nicholson, proposed by Carol Angela Perschke and seconded by Jean Chapman.

The above were elected en bloc to serve on Harrogate u3a Committee and are automatically Trustees of the Charity.

The meeting closed at 2.35 p.m., to be followed by refreshments and a Have your Say session.

Signed:

Date:

PRINT NAME: