

Longridge u3a

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Longridge u3a

Held at Longridge Civic Hall on Wednesday 6th September 2022

Present:

60 members out of a total of 186 were present representing 68%

1 Apologies:

Sally Maxwell, Jane Dewhurst

2 Approval of the Minutes of the AGM 1 September 2021

Approval of the minutes was proposed by Pam Dean and seconded by Belinda Singleton and agreed Nem Con

3 Chairs Report

This was read by the Vice Chair in the Chairs absence.

The Chair stated that this has been the year that Longridge u3a rose from the ashes of lockdown and Covid. Membership fees continued to be paid to the national body. Members returned slowly and it was necessary to find new venues to meet. The main concern however was the current Trustees time on the committee had expired requiring new members to be found who swiftly managed to get the u3a up and running again.

Publicity was important with a variety of ways explored and used to encourage new members. Membership numbers are now up to pre covid levels and the Membership Secretaries were thanked for their diligence in keeping the necessary records.

Some of the groups have not survived Geology and Art Appreciation. However new groups are in the pipeline with the photography group starting this week. The Groups Coordinator gave a brief overview of his role and offered members the opportunity to join him on the committee. A special lunch was organised to show everyone's appreciation for the Group Convenors role with the Vice Chair stating, 'we would be nothing much without them'.

The monthly meetings continue to take place at the Civic Hall with the Speaker's Secretaries managing to arrange varied and interesting speakers. The Vice Chair thanked the team who prepare the hall ready for the meeting and those who make the refreshments.

A request for help on the committee resulted in a member to help the Webmaster as well as someone to help check members in when they arrive. However, the Vice Chair again invited members willing to help to let us know and would be welcome to join the committee meetings.

Longridge u3a is part of a network, The Ribble Valley Group, comprising of Clitheroe, Burnley, Todmorden and Hyndburn which allows an interchange of shared problems and solutions. Members can attend other groups and go on outings.

Longridge u3a

Members have access to National u3a activities as well as the TAM magazine. The Chair stated that 'she was proud that we are a do-it-ourselves organisation and receive no grants or other forms of aid'.

Finally, the Chair wished to thank the core committee members who as Trustees take on legal responsibilities for the Longridge u3a and wished everyone a fulfilling and productive 12 months.

The Chair's report was approved by Elizabeth Hewitson and seconded by June Parker.

4 **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer report on the financial year 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

As can be seen from the Income Expenditure Report a surplus of £345 was generated as opposed to a loss of £1868 in the previous year.

The membership income from both moneys collected from September 2021 and part of 2022 – 2023 membership collected before 31 March 2022.

The Christmas Dinner has been included as the Trustees agreed to cover a £34 over-spend. Usually, the event is self-financing from ticket sales.

All other items are self-explanatory.

The income Expenditure Report was reviewed and approved by Pierce CALTD on 4th August 2022.

Looking to the future the Trustees continue to retain sufficient reserves to ensure the existence of the Longridge u3a. The concern as the Treasurer is the rising cost of energy and the inflation rate. Thankfully, Longridge u3a does not have any direct energy usage, but the increases will have an effect on our costs. This in the future, dependent on cost increases, there may have to be an increase in income to maintain sufficient reserves.

The Treasurer informed those present that one way to increase income was for everyone who pays tax to ensure they tick the Gift Aid box on the membership form. This year Longridgeu3a successfully claimed £311 which could rise by approximately a further £500 if all those eligible ticked the Gift Aid box.

The report was concluded by asking if anyone would like to ask a question.

Q - Why did the Trustees decide to continue to pay membership/TAM/Beacon during closure?

Mr Draper, the chair when the decision was made, stood to answer stating that the Trustees at the time agreed it would be easier to restart after Covid with all the required documentation, u3a Trust membership. Constitution, bank accounts etc in place.

Q - The Treasurer reported there may have to be price increases. Why?

Firstly, Third Age Trust are looking for approval of a membership price rise equivalent to the annual increase in State Pension at their AGM in October. Secondly, by the predicted rise in energy cost that will be passed on by our suppliers. Obviously if the price rises are minimal, there should be no need to increase membership.

The Treasurer then moved onto the Approval of the Accounts.

Longridge u3a

5 Approval of the Accounts

Approval of the accounts was proposed by June Parker and Seconded by May Squires. The accounts were approved Nem Con.

6 Approval of Independent Examiner of Accounts Piece & Co

Approval of independent examiner of accounts were proposed by Linda Williams and seconded by Mike Cussans. The independent examiner of accounts was approved Nem Con.

7 Consideration of any Motions

No motions were presented.

8 Standing down of Existing Trustees

All the existing Trustees were stood down.

This was approved by June Parker and seconded by Belinda Singleton.

9 Election of Trustees

All the previous Trustees agreed to be re-elected and were elected en bloc.

This was approved by Helen Greenwood and seconded by Mike Cussans.

10 Members Questions / Open Forum

Q- Does the Civic Hall have a microphone?

Yes, but it is not always available.

Q - Would it be helpful to have a page available about the committee members?

The Vice Chair explained the 'meet and greet' procedure we have in place at the meeting.

The AGM closed at 14.20

11 Date of Next AGM

Tuesday 5th September 2023

12 Date of next Trustees Meeting

Wednesday 21st September 2022