



Much Wenlock and District u3a

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Much Wenlock and District u3a held at 2.00pm on 11th May, 2022 at the Priory Hall, Much Wenlock.

Present: Linda Wallace (Chairman), Alison Richards (Secretary), Glynn Emery (Treasurer), David Foster (Vice Chair & Groups Co-ordinator), Robert Toft (Vice Chair), Michael Theobalds (Membership Secretary), Bill Hague (Executive Committee Member), Jane Hague (Executive Committee Member), Linda Davies (Executive Committee Member) and members of the u3a making a total attendance of 48 persons.

The Chairman welcomed members to the tenth AGM of the Much Wenlock and District u3a.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Jean & Phil Buswell, Stephen Terry, Andy & Jo Jackson, Harriet Devlin, Paul & Sheena Taylor and Deborah Knight.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The draft minutes of the AGM held on 13th October, 2020 were accepted without amendment. Alison Richards was thanked for producing them and they have been posted on the Much Wenlock & District u3a website.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

4. Chairman's Report on behalf of the Trustees

The Chairman (Linda Wallace) supplemented her report with a PowerPoint presentation.

Opening

Linda opened by reminding us that when we held our last AGM in October, 2021, we had only just re-commenced our activities following the Covid pandemic. She noted that our membership prior to the pandemic had reached 270 but that this number fell by about 20% during lockdown. This figure is in line with the national average. The encouraging news is that this has gradually been increasing since last October, and now membership stands at 236.

The Chairman advised that this year is the 40th anniversary of the u3a movement nationally. The Committee will keep the membership informed of activities taking place to celebrate the 40th anniversary. Much Wenlock & District u3a was formed 9 years ago and she confirmed that our local u3a is thriving again, with increased activities taking place and membership increasing.

Groups

Much Wenlock & District u3a has 27 activity groups running at the moment.

In October, David Foster organised a Groups Fayre and from that came some ideas for new activity groups. David was thanked for organising that event.

The new groups include:

- Beginners Bridge
- Table Tennis
- Spanish for Beginners
- Psychology
- Beginners Ukulele - Mark III

Linda explained that we are considering holding our next Group Fayre in the centre of town, rather than after the monthly meeting in Priory Hall. This is so that we can try and attract non-u3a members as well as existing members. The current plan is for this to be held in September. The Chairman also welcomed any ideas for new groups.

Linda thanked the Group Leaders for their hard work, with a special thanks to those who have volunteered to run the new groups.

Keeping in Touch

Robert Toft was thanked for producing the newsletter that was issued in March, 2022 and sent to all members.

The membership was reminded about Much Wenlock & District u3a's website and Facebook group, and were invited to post topics of interest on the latter. The relevant committee members were thanked for organising and updating these.

It was been confirmed that the Kilworth House play is scheduled for Wednesday, 29th June, 2022 and is 'Carousel'. Thanks went to Jean Buswell for organising this event, which is already fully booked.

The Chairman concluded her report by confirming that the future is definitely positive for our Much Wenlock and District u3a. She said that we live in a beautiful area and we have very kind, friendly people in the organisation. She re-iterated that learning never stops, no matter what our age, and we all benefit from the fun of taking part in new activities.

Linda advised that she will be stepping down as Chairman at this AGM, having served the maximum term of three years, but that she will continue to serve on the committee. Alison Richards thanked Linda for her hard work during a difficult term and invited the membership to show their gratitude with a round of applause.

Linda thanked the membership for their support, especially over the last two years and also gave a special thanks to the Committee for their support and encouragement.

5. Financial Report for 2021

Linda explained that the Financial Report for 2021 has been issued by our Treasurer, Glynn Emery and published on the website. This shows a healthy closing position at the end of the financial year. Paper copies were made available at the meeting. The Report included a Summary Position, the Financial Statement from the Beacon software system, Auditor's Report and the 2022 Budget. Questions for the Treasurer were invited but none were forthcoming.

She thanked Jo Cohen for diligently examining the accounts for 2021 and for the speedy turnaround.

6. Appointment of an Examiner for the Accounts (1st January to 31st December, 2022)

Jo Cohen has kindly agreed to examine the accounts for 2022 and the meeting approved this.

7. Election of Officers (Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and up to two Vice-Chairmen)

The Chairman reported that the following nominations were received by the closing date of 13th April, 2022 for:

Chairman	Robert Toft
Vice Chair	David Foster
Treasurer	Glynn Emery
Secretary	Alison Richards

The meeting approved these as valid nominations and, in the absence of other nominations, Linda declared Robert, David, Glynn and Alison elected.

8. Election of Executive Committee Members

The Chairman stated that, under the Constitution, there can be up to 13 members (including the officers), thus 9 committee places were available.

She noted that the following nominations were received by the closing date of 13 April, 2022 from:

Jean Buswell
Bill Hague
Jane Hague
Michael Theobalds
Linda Davies
Linda Wallace

The meeting approved these as valid nominations and so the six people named above were declared as elected.

As there were still vacancies for three people on the Committee, Linda appealed to the floor for volunteers. Both Ian and Jo Cohen expressed interest in joining the committee. Consequently, Laura Fennell proposed that they be duly elected and Ken Wallace seconded this. Linda welcomed them to the committee.

9. Membership Fee for 2022

The membership fees have remained constant since the inception of Much Wenlock & District u3a. The committee have reviewed this and believe that there are sufficient reserves for the coming year, so propose no change in fees.

There were no comments about membership fees from the floor and the meeting gave its approval for the fee to remain at £15 for individual membership and £28 for joint membership.

10. Any Other Business

There was no further business and the Chairman thanked members for attending. The meeting closed at 2.20pm.

The members were then treated to an excellent talk on 'Eglantyne Jebb', by Alison Utting before refreshments were served.