

**Minutes of AGM held 2:15pm on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018**

**East Kilbride Arts Centre, 51-53 Old Coach Road, East Kilbride, G74 4DU**

**Present:**

from the following U3As: Aberdeen, Ayr, Bearsden & Milngavie, Brechin & District, Callander & West Perthshire, Cupar, Dumfries, Dundee, East Berwickshire, East Kilbride, East Lothian, Edinburgh, Elgin and District, Falkirk & District, Forth Valley, Four Border Abbeys, Glasgow West End, Inverness & Black Isle, Lanark & District, Moray Coast, Oban, Paisley & District, Perth, Stewartry, Three Brethren, Tweeddale, West Lothian.

Plus U3A Scotland Officers: Pat Garland (Chair), Kath Payne (Vice-Chair), Mike Still (Treasurer), Linda Clark (Secretary), Susan Tester (Membership & Website) and Committee members Anne Walsh and Janet Holland.

In attendance Ed Link (Third Age Trustee for Scotland)

Pam Jones (Chairman of Third Age Trust).

58 delegates attended the Assembly and 55 remained for the AGM of those 27 were voting representatives.

**1. Welcome:** Pat Garland, Chair, U3A in Scotland, welcomed all to the meeting.

**2. Apologies:** Easter Ross & Sutherland, Grantown on Spey and Lenzie.

**3. Minutes of the 2017 AGM:**

The Minutes were agreed as an acceptable record of the meeting, proposed by Veronica Kirk, Cupar, seconded by Maria Chester, East Berwickshire.

**4. Matters Arising from the Minutes:** none.

**5. Reports:**

**5.1 Chair – Pat Garland:**

The yearly report from the Chair is an opportunity to look back and it has been quite a year. Since the AGM in 2017 we have been able to start three new U3As Brechin, Paisley, and Glasgow West End and I am delighted to see representatives from each of them today. In addition there are three more in the pipeline, Helensburgh, Kinross and Duns. The coming year will see these three established as full members. We have also been planning the Summer School 2018 again in Dundee in August and if anyone has managed to miss this information, there are a few leaflets or just come and have a word with me. There are a few places left. I attended the National Conference in Nottingham in August 2017 and

found that very interesting and just like our assemblies I think the most valuable part was talking to representatives from all over the UK. Our Assemblies this past year have been in Lanark and Kelso and we have had some very interesting speakers and a good turnout of U3As although we can always do with more attending these Assemblies. I attended two Network Link meetings in London with the chairs of regions and networks from all over the UK and listened to how things were organised in their areas. Ed keeps telling us that Scotland is the best organised network but I think he might be a wee bit prejudiced. I was invited to give a talk about U3A at the Conference of Retired Unison members held in Glasgow. During my talk I asked how many people had heard of the U3A and out of about a hundred members only 15 had heard of the U3A and only one was a member. How can we get the word out? In conclusion, I want to let you know that I am not standing for re-election as Chair this year. Although I have only done two years instead of the usual 3 years I put it to the committee that if I did both Ed and I would be due to finish our term of office at the same time. It would not be a good idea to have a new Chair and a new Scottish Trustee at the same time. There have been changes at the Third Age Trust and it is possible that Ed may stay on longer but I decided to stand by my original decision. However, I am not disappearing as I am still a Trust Volunteer for starting new U3As and also will be helping to organise Induction Workshops for new and aspiring committee members. I have been speaking about the past year but now a quick mention of the coming year. I am still going to be responsible for the Newsletter and the next edition is due out in September. We are looking for input from U3As. Please tell us about what you have been up to and share your news with others. Send the information to any committee member and they will forward it to me. I have enjoyed working with both Ed and the committee who have been very supportive and I know that the new Chair will have the same support from committee members and also from the Trustee.

## **5.2 Third Age Trust Trustee for Scotland - Ed Link:**

Ed is in his second year as Trustee (now formally Board Member for Scotland). It has been a very busy year as a consequence of changes in legislation. It has been reinforced that non charity registered U3As in Scotland cannot claim to be a formal charity but must behave as if they were. He will be looking for candidates to stand for election as Trustee in August 2019 in the coming year. A team of 12 Trust Volunteers has been recruited from U3As all over Scotland. Some have already been active in starting new U3As and giving advice on constitutions and other U3A management issues. A programme of Workshops is being put together from managing a U3A to dealing with complaints and addressing legal matters. These will be offered across Scotland. The possibility of arranging local conferences on various U3A related issues is being considered. Three new U3As are in the process of starting up - Helensburgh, Kinross-and Duns. The Isle of Bute is a possibility being investigated as are Gourock and the Outer Hebrides. Information on the U3A is being included in the report into education in the community by a strategy working party set up by the Educating Scotland Government Department. A three day celebration of U3A exhibition is being planned to take place in the Scottish Parliament in February. A shared learning project is being investigated to work with Trading Standards and other bodies to investigate how older people can use digital media to avoid scams such as those proclaiming grants for energy efficiency.

### 5.3 Treasurer - Mike Still:

You will all have had a chance to review the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2018 and, as you will have seen, they are fairly straightforward. I would point out two particular areas where questions may arise. On 20<sup>th</sup> May 2017 a cheque was made out for the wrong amount in respect of the speaker's expenses for the Philosophy Study day. This was corrected on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017 when the speaker kindly offered to repay the overpayment. Expenditure for the Summer School 2018 exceeded the income by £60 but it should be borne in mind that the final account for the summer school will appear in next year's accounts thus these sums represent deposits received and paid and not the full amounts for the event. As the opening and closing balances are similar I can see no reason to alter the voluntary affiliation fee of 15p per head. Accounts attached.

6. **Motions for consideration:** None.

### 7. **Appointment of Officers and Committee members:**

Pat Garland proposed that nominations for the committee should be accepted from the floor. The majority were in favour (15 in favour, 6 against, 6 abstentions). Kath Payne proposed by Four Border Abbeys, seconded by West Lothian was voted in as the new Chair. Kath Payne formally thanked Pat for her work as Chair and then proceeded with the election for the remaining roles which were filled unopposed.

**Vice Chair:** Susan Tester (Forth Valley) proposed by Forth Valley seconded by Inverness & Black Isle.

**Treasurer:** Mike Still (Four Border Abbeys U3A) proposed by Four Border Abbeys, seconded by Forth Valley.

**Secretary:** Linda Clark (Inverness & Black Isle) proposed by Inverness & Black Isle seconded by Easter Ross & Sutherland.

**Committee members:** Janet Holland (Bearsden & Milngavie) proposed by Bearsden & Milngavie, seconded by Cupar.

Anne Walsh (West Lothian) proposed by West Lothian seconded by Inverness & Black Isle.

Iain McDonald (Three Brethren) proposed by Three Brethren seconded by Elgin.

### 8. **Any other relevant business:**

- 8.1. It was proposed that Alasdair Cameron be reappointed as Examiner of the Accounts. This was agreed.
- 8.2. The next Assembly is to be held on 11<sup>th</sup> October in Dundee and members were asked to supply topics.
- 8.3. Liz Drury, National Office, is looking for interesting and unusual groups for a U3A video.
- 8.4. It was requested that a list of delegates attending the Assemblies should be made available.
- 8.5. Kath Payne thanked East Kilbride for hosting the AGM.