

MINUTES OF THE 6th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH U3A HELD IN THE CENTRAL HALL LONGTON AT 2pm ON THURSDAY, 25th MAY 2017

Present

Keith Ward	Chairman
Fay Howell	Business Secretary
Lynne Stevenson	Treasurer
Alan Stevenson	Committee Member
Andrew Devin	
Christine Whitfield	
John Myatt	
Lynette Bell	
Patricia Rowley	
Pauline Williams	Committee Member
Susan Hartley	Committee Member
Valerie Greatbatch	Committee Member

Sixty nine members plus guests:

Guests

Carol Birks	
Christopher Robinson	Councillor
Geoffrey Dulson	Speaker/Entertainer
Joan Bell	Councillor
Mary Cresswell	Stone U3A Member

Apologies

Bill and Joy Whiston	
John Morris	
Kevin Ford	Committee Member
Phyllis Rossiter	
Rita Wright	
Valerie Morris	

WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed members and guests.

1. **MINUTES OF THE 2016 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2016 were given to members who were asked to agree they were a correct record. These were agreed, and signed.
2. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
The Chairman welcomed members and guests.

Looking back over the last twelve months it could be said that it had been another successful year.
 - a) **GROUPS** A few have disbanded during the year, but new ones have replaced them. They provide a variety of interests for members to enjoy, and many are now well established. Group leaders work very hard, are very committed, and

Notes

dedicated to making groups successful. Our thanks go to all of them.

Meals and days out continue to be very popular.

- b) **MEMBERSHIP** This continues to grow in that there has been an overall increase despite a few members not renewing their subscriptions. Several new members have joined as a result of personal recommendations. He urged members to continue encouraging friends, neighbours and relatives to join our U3A.
- c) **MONTHLY MEETINGS** Our meetings continue to be well supported. Attendances are such that on some occasions numbers have almost reached the capacity for the room. There has been a variety of entertainment as well as informative talks, shared food and activities which hopefully members enjoyed.
- d) **TREASURER** The Chairman said members should be aware of how their subscriptions and other income were handled by the Treasurer. As well as general expenses, there were costs for entertainment, light refreshments, food for special events, accommodation, and printing. Additionally, a capitation fee has to be paid to the National U3A for each member. A contribution also has to be made for the cost and distribution of the Third Age Matters magazines.
- e) **U3A AND OTHERS** Links were still being forged with outside bodies along with other U3As, on local, regional and national levels. Compared to other U3As of the same size and geographical features, our U3A is doing well.
- f) The Chairman gave thanks to the Committee for all their hard work in managing the organisation and providing the services members deserved to expect. He also gave thanks to those members who are not on the Committee, but who were always willing to help with such things as catering and group co-ordination. Three members are due to be elected to the Committee today but there are still vacancies and the Chairman asked members to consider becoming more involved.
- g) The Chairman concluded by thanking the members for their support over the last twelve months, and that we should all continue to make 2017/18 an even more successful year.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a) The Treasurer, Lynne Stevenson, submitted an accounts summary dated 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017. This showed a balance at bank of £10,071.46 on 1st April 2017. This comprised of £8,852.94 in the main account and £1,218.52 in the social account. The Treasurer said that all members present should have sight of a copy of the accounts, and see that the accounts have been independently examined and found to be correct.
- b) We have maintained our comfortable financial position for another year. Our room hire charges are now more than covered by the £1 we pay to attend the various activities; some venues being free does help to cover the cost of those groups small in number. It continues to be the Committee's policy to run these groups even if their income does not cover the cost of their room hire.

- c) On 22nd May Kevin Ford (Deputy Treasurer) and the Treasurer attended a Finance Workshop in Birmingham, and both were happy that our financial procedures are sound and in line with National U3A guidelines. The National U3A is in discussion with the Charity Commission and HMRC regarding the situation with regard to social accounts. It may turn out that the social account should not have been set up but, until there is a ruling, we have been advised to continue.
- d) Equipment Sheet 3 gave details of equipment owned by our U3A and showed the purchase prices.
- e) Gift Aid We were able to claim this on some of our membership subscriptions. Members were urged to complete the bottom part of membership forms if they are UK taxpayers.
- f) The audited accounts were accepted, and a show of hands (anyone not accepting the accounts was asked to abstain). The motion was unanimously carried.
- g) The Treasurer concluded by expressing her thanks to group leaders, and those involved in collecting money for getting it to her on a regular basis. This really helps with the smooth running of our finances.

4. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman requested a volunteer for the important position of Vice-Chairman as no application had been received. Andrew Devin volunteered for the role. His application was proposed and seconded, and members voted in favour.

5. **ELECTIONS OF GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- a) The following applications had been proposed and seconded, and members voted in favour of both appointments:
 1. John Myatt.
 2. Lynette Bell.

6. **QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR** None.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 2:15pm. The Chairman then introduced entertainer Geoff Dulson who went on to recite comical poetry. Refreshments were provided by way of tea and coffee, biscuits, and cakes.

The meeting finally closed at 3:15pm.

Chairman:

Date