

MINUTES OF THE 7th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH U3A HELD IN THE CENTRAL HALL LONGTON AT 2pm ON THURSDAY, 24th MAY 2018

Present

Keith Ward	Chairman
Fay Howell	Business Secretary
Andrew Devin	Vice-Chairman
Lynne Stevenson	Treasurer
Alan Stevenson	Committee Member
Catherine Pomeroy	Committee Member
Kevin Ford	Committee Member
Lynette Bell	Committee Member
Pauline Williams	Committee Member
Susan Hartley	Committee Member

Sixty one members attended.

Guests - None attended.

Apologies

Christine Whitfield
Michelle Tittle-Wang
Michael Cresswell

WELCOME The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. He read out the apologies, and asked if there were any more.

1. MINUTES OF THE 2017 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25th May 2017 were approved and signed as a correct record.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year 2017/18 was another year of progress. Membership increased, finances were sufficient and our website was revamped with better access for members and others. Members of other U3As have expressed their opinions on how well we have done in the short period our U3A has been in existence.

A small number of groups folded while others were set up. Overall, groups provided a variety of interests, and were generally well supported, so our thanks go to group leaders and co-ordinators for all their hard work.

New Data Protection regulations come in to effect as from 25th May 2018 which required a considerable amount of time-consuming work. Amendments were made to both the national constitution and our constitution. Likewise, changes to the governance of the movement at national level had an impact on individual U3As.

One of the changes has been a pathway whereby individuals can make their views and opinions known directly to the national policy-makers. Committee members attended conferences, day schools and workshops where issues were explained and discussed.

At this point the Chairman thanked the Committee for their hard work over the last twelve months. He then asked for more members to join the Committee explaining that meetings last no longer than about ninety minutes and are held once a month. He told members that help is required for various Committee roles such as catering, publicity, administration and equal opportunities, adding that if this help is not forthcoming it will become difficult to provide the services they had come to expect.

Over the year, members enjoyed visits to the theatre, gardens, meals out and day trips as well as entertainment at monthly meetings, and thanks were given to the Committee members who arranged these events.

Committee members attended a meeting with neighbouring U3As where matters of mutual interest and concerns were discussed. There was also a growing working relationship with our regional trustee as well as the national office. Three Committee members hosted a stall at a well-attended event (inside the room we are in today) aimed at pensioners, and which was an opportunity to publicise the U3A movement. A small article and picture of the stall appeared in the national newsletter.

The Chairman concluded by thanking members for their support over the past twelve months, and hoping that together we could all make 2018/19 an even more successful year.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer said everyone should have sight of a copy of the accounts, and see they have been independently examined and found to be correct. She said we continue to be a registered charity (No.1148741) and our accounts are entered each year on the Charity Commission website on which they can be viewed. All members of the Committee are Charity Commission trustees to our U3A account(s). The Treasurer read out from the account summaries:

The main accounts summary is dated 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. Audited on 1st May 2018, this shows a 'balance at bank' of £12,444.54 on 31st March 2018, and £40.00 in unpresented cheques giving a total balance of £12,404.54.

Due to the late arrival of an invoice, no payment for £1,666.00 membership was made to the National Office in this financial year. This has now been paid.

We have also been able to claim Gift Aid on some of our membership subscriptions, and members were urged to complete this section of the membership form if they are UK taxpayers.

The Social Account summary is dated 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018. Audited on 1st May 2018, this shows a 'balance at bank' and total balance of £2,107.02. on 31st March 2018. At last year's AGM, members were told that we had opened, on the advice of our regional advisor, a Social Account to hold funds regarding activities such as evening meals, the Lunch Group, and visits. Following discussion between the National Office, HMIT and the Charity Commission, we have been informed that this does not comply with tax and Charity Commission regulations. Therefore, our Social Account will now be closed and the funds transferred to our main bank account. However, for the past year, both accounts have been maintained in the same stringent manner with all cheques being signed by two signatories. All expenditure was first agreed with Committee.

The Treasurer also submitted an updated extensive List of Assets dated May 2018 totalling £5,207.35.

There are no plans to increase annual membership fees i.e. these will remain at £10.00 per year.

The Treasurer asked for the accounts to be approved by members with a show of hands, anyone not accepting with a separate show of hands with others abstaining if they wished. The motion was unanimously carried. The Treasurer said she will continue to do her best for the coming year.

4. **ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

- a) In accordance with secretarial procedures, the Chairman vacated the Chair because he had been nominated for re-election at the AGM, and was therefore not permitted to preside over his own election. The duty was handed to the Vice-Chairman who was not on the 2018/19 rota for election.

The Vice-Chairman explained to the audience that three honorary Officer roles were due for election, namely: Chairman, Business Secretary, and Treasurer. Additionally, five Committee member roles were due for election, albeit only four nominations had been received. The election process progressed as follows:

b) **OFFICERS**

<u>ROLE</u>	<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>SECONDER</u>
Chairman	Keith Ward	Angela Ward	Alan Stevenson
Business Secretary	Fay Howell	Brian Whalley	Kenneth Thorley
Treasurer	Lynne Stevenson	Andrew Devin	Pauline Williams

c) **COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

<u>NOMINEE</u>	<u>PROPOSER</u>	<u>SECONDER</u>
Alan Stevenson	Andrew Devin	Pauline Williams
Catherine Pomeroy	Alan Stevenson	Keith Ward
Kevin Ford	Lyndsey Paxton	Doris Henshall
Susan Hartley	Fay Howell	Kevin Ford

Each of the individual elections were unanimously supported by all members in attendance, i.e. there were no votes against, and no abstentions.

The Vice-Chairman concluded by asking the audience whether anyone would be willing to accept a nomination for the vacant committee position. No-one was willing to be nominated.

5. **APPROVAL FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE (OBJECTS CLAUSE)**

'The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full-time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development'.

The Chairman explained to members that the above-mentioned clause has been

recommended by National U3A, and approved by the Charity Commission, to bring our own constitution in line with the other constitutions of the various U3As and National U3A. In order to accept this change, we need a two-thirds majority of the members present this afternoon to accept it. The Chairman then welcomed questions. The amendment was proposed by Alan Stevenson and seconded by Lynne Stevenson. Members voted in favour, and the motion was carried.

6. QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR

A member asked Committee members to stand up so everyone could see who was who. Committee members stood, and the Chairman gave names in turn.

The formal part of the meeting closed at 2:17pm. The Chairman then introduced singer, Rebecca Jane. Refreshments were provided by way of tea and coffee, and a variety of cakes.

The meeting finally closed at 3:20pm.

Chairman:

Date