

University of the Third Age Trust – Sudbury Branch

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting,

Held on Tuesday 26th February 2019

1. Welcome

Anita Floodgate, Chairman, opened the Meeting by welcoming everybody, especially our new members.

2. Apologies for Absence

Received from Jean White, Lorna Hoey, Bob Andrews, Linda Blexley, Anne Griffiths, Jeanette Avery, Nigel Bradley, Pete Gordon, Peter Whitehead, Doreen Beach.

3. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27th February 2018

There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes. It was proposed that the Minutes be adopted as a correct record of the Meeting. Proposed: Joan Garner; seconded Moira Orton. Carried unanimously and signed by the Chairman.

4. Chairman's Report

Anita's Report was tabled. She reported that as we go into this, our 30th Anniversary year, we have almost 835 members and 76 interest groups. We have come a long way since early 1989 when Bill and Doreen Beach formed Sudbury U3A with 30 members.

As new chairman last year one of her first challenges was ensuring we met all legal requirements for the new General Data Protection Regulations and once the committee had been updated on the requirements a Group Leaders' workshop was organised.

Anita mentioned the excellent speakers at our monthly meetings during the last year and said that when the new membership card is available in April there will be topics not covered before which the committee believe members will find interesting and enjoyable.

The monthly coffee mornings introduced during the year are proving successful, giving potential new members an opportunity to find out more about U3A and long-standing members an opportunity to call in for a chat over coffee.

Regrettably the trial of the twice monthly Activity Mornings at St Peters had to be discontinued due to the low attendance. Anita stressed that the committee remain committed to listening to what our members *do* want so we can use our reserves to further enhance our U3A.

Anita then went on to thank those who volunteer their services –the committee; our enthusiastic, dedicated group leaders; the Really Useful Group; our newsletter editor, proof readers, "sorters" of the newsletter for distribution and those who deliver it. The helpers at our monthly meetings. She then went on to particularly thank Lyn Gray who is in her 13th year as U3A member, and has been on the committee twice, served as Chairman, organised various events and celebrations and stands down having been our Groups Coordinator. Lyn has also been an active member of our U3A Regional Network. In recognition of Lyn's almost immeasurable contribution to our U3A we have decided that as from April this year she will be made an honorary member of Sudbury U3A.

5. Treasurer's Report

Brian tabled his Report and made detailed comments on the 2018 audited accounts the statement of affairs for the Groups who have a Holding Account. He stressed that Holding account monies are kept separated from our general funds and are contributed by members of a particular group and can be only used for that group.

He said that continued growth in membership and an increase in Gift Aid donations has ensured our receipts have been maintained in 2018 and we had a small surplus of £110. Our overall financial position continues to be strong with a significant surplus of almost £18,500 brought forward from previous years. Brian confirmed a declaration will be made to the Charity Commissioners of the total funds held by Sudbury U3A in the Main and Holding accounts in line with the new procedures agreed between National office and HMRC.

Brian confirmed the membership charge for the forth coming year will remain at £12.00. He would encourage any members who are UK tax payers and who have not signed a Gift Aid declaration to do so. We receive from the government £3.00 per annum for each member signing a declaration and in 2018 we received £1,363 Gift Aid from HMRC. He stressed that once a member ceased to be a tax payer, and had previously signed a Gift Aid claim form Brian should be notified so that your name can be removed from the annual claim

During 2018 almost 30% of members renewed their membership via internet banking and Brian asked members to renew their membership this way if possible as it saves both the Membership Secretary and the Treasurer a considerable amount of work and improves record keeping.

He stressed the committee wishes to ensure that the surplus we hold is used for the benefit of our membership and enables the range of Group activities to expand. To that end it has been agreed to help develop and expand the activities we have to offer, subject to Committee approval, not only would grants be available to start up new Groups but where appropriate funds would be available for capital expenditure for equipment. Last year we provided grants to 5 groups to help them to get established.

A new projector and screen have been purchased and is available for use by all and this year a capital equipment payment of almost £500 for the purchase of equipment for our 3 table tennis Groups has been made. The committee would welcome involvement from members as to how we should further develop our U3A. The U3A ethos is self-help, but we do have the financial where withal to help Groups establish and develop.

Brian then spoke about Beacon and how he reported last year it was the intention to adopt the U3A National management system and that preparatory work to enable transfer to the system had been completed. However, in July just as we were about to proceed the National Office released a report advising problems had been occurring with Beacon particularly with security and General Data Protection Regulations. The committee made the decision to delay adoption until all problems were resolved, which have proved to be more widespread than first anticipated. Your committee's view is that our current systems may not be state of the art, but they work and are cost free, and they have taken the decision that until such time as Beacon 2 has a proven track record we should make no commitment to change. We would not anticipate this happening until at least 2021. Apart from Committee members free time, Beacon has not had a direct cost to Sudbury U3A.

Iain Taylor asked from the floor if the committee would consider paying rent that his Group were incurring as their present venue, usually free of charge, was closed for refurbishment. Brian replied that whilst the committee would consider a formal request for the payment of rent, he did not believe it was in the scope we had intended which was for the development of groups and the purchasing of equipment.

There being no further questions, it was proposed that the Accounts be adopted.
Proposed: Kay Mason; seconded Barbara Bradley and carried unanimously.

6. Appointment of Examiner to the Accounts

Rod Gray had kindly agreed to act as Examiner to the Accounts again. Proposed: Andy Edgecombe; seconded Anne Grimshaw and carried unanimously.

7. Election of Officers

Chairman: Anita Floodgate. Proposed: Rod Gray, seconded Ian Cruttenden. Nem con

Vice Chairman: Brian Orton. Proposed: Peter Whiteley, seconded Ian Cruttenden. Nem con

Treasurer: There were no nominations for the role of Treasurer.

Brian Orton has completed five years as Treasurer, and as our constitution states in paragraph 7, an appeal was made to the assembled members for reconsideration. There being no nominations, a majority decision was taken by the Executive Committee to ask Brian Orton if he would remain in the role until the next AGM. Brian agreed and the motion was carried.

Secretary: Janet Cruttenden. Proposed: Jeanette Avery, seconded: Frances Attwood. Nem con

Membership Secretary: John Freeborn. Proposed: Mrs M Fairweather, seconded: Mrs C A Livens. Nem con

Webmaster: Brian Hemmings. Proposed: Dave Brinkley, seconded: Marion Gardiner. Nem con

Groups Co-ordinator: Jennie Leech. Proposed: Judi Shaw, seconded: Gill Rose. Nem con

Speakers' Secretary: Colette Bentley: Proposed: Martin Rose, seconded: Barbara Rae. Nem con

Election of Committee Members:

Deanna Hoile: Proposed: Linda Furlong, seconded: Kathryn Andrews

Nicola Godwin: Proposed: Trevor Rix, seconded: Pam Hunter.

Richard Thomas: Proposed: Jane Crompton-Taylor, seconded: Ian Cruttenden.

Michael F Hughes: Proposed: Conrad Bentley, seconded: Roger Floodgate.

All the above members were unanimously voted to take office as Committee Members.

8. Any Other Business

There being no further business, the Meeting closed at 10.40 am.

Signed..... Date.....

Anita Floodgate, Chairman