



## **Minutes of u3a Thornbury virtual AGM on ZOOM 10.30 Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (relating to year ending 31 August 2021)**

The start of the meeting was delayed until 10.50 to ensure that we exceeded the quorum requirement of 148 members attending. The total number of attendees reached a maximum of 153 including shared platforms. Where members shared a platform, two votes were arranged for each motion so that all members attending could vote.

The Committee members in attendance were:-

Norman Taylor, Steve Hughes, Ian Macdonald, Jackie Gitsham, Don Grundell, Frank Tustin, Mike Farquhar, Barbara Jones, Trevor Daniels. We received apologies from Louise Ingsley, Anne Reed and Sue James.

1. The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and talked through the agenda.
2. There were 93 apologies for absence recorded including 3 members of the Committee.
3. The minutes of the last meeting, having been presented to members, were accepted as correct. Proposed by Barbara Jones and seconded by Jackie Gitsham. There were no matters arising  
**The vote was 142 in favour, 0 against and 11 abstentions.**
4. Chairman's report: This report encapsulates the report sent to the Charity Commissioners and TAT (Third Age Trust). The Chairman's report can be found in full on the Thornbury u3a site along with the Treasurer's report. In brief:-
  - Membership has fallen during Covid 19 closures to around 1600 throughout 2021. It is currently standing at 1487 with some outstanding renewals still to be followed up. Another New Members Meeting is scheduled for Mar 7<sup>th</sup> in St Mary's Hall.
  - We currently have 85 groups including 2 new ones, Spanish and YOYO. Please note that YOYO are moving their meeting venue to Methodist Church Hall in Thornbury on Mar 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Financial assistance has been provided to several groups to help them reform after Covid.
  - TAT have only charged us for members in the year whereas they used to charge historically, this has saved money.
  - The Chairman expressed his thanks, on behalf of the Committee, to Ian Gross our Financial Examiner.The Chairman invited all members to attend a ZOOM presentation by Sir Steve Webb on Pensions on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2022 at 14.30. Invites will be issued by Don Grundell via email nearer the time.  
The report was put to a vote proposed by Trevor Daniels and seconded by Jackie Gitsham.  
**The vote was 146 in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.**
5. The Treasurer presented his report which can be found in full on our website. In brief:-
  - Our finances are in good shape and all balances have increased in a positive way.
  - There has been no change in the Social Fund during the year as there have no meetings.
  - Savings have accrued from:- Less fees to TAT, No Leaders' Lunch, an Increase in subscriptions.

As mentioned by the Chairman some help has been provided to various groups to help with continuation of meetings. More funds can be made available to other groups in need. Ian Gross has accepted an invitation to remain as our Financial Examiner after a vote by the Committee to ask him to continue.

Quentin Killey spoke from the floor:

He expressed thanks for all the Committee efforts this year and asked if our reserves were too high and should be reduced? The Treasurer noted the point and advised that Ian Gross had recommended an increase last year to cover any risk from the larger groups within Thornbury u3a going into debt. Our reserves are now higher than planned due to the savings referred to above. The Committee will review our reserves and reserves policy in the near future, with advice from Ian Gross.

Lyn Haigh spoke from the floor:

Should we not invest our excess funds? The Treasurer noted the point and advised that we currently have ~£3k in a saving fund and obtained only 18p interest this year. The remainder of the “Excess funds” was held by the many individual groups – not as a single lump sum. We are reluctant to invest in the stock market and will continue to review all savings options to obtain interest but there is nothing available to match the CPI which is 5.5%. as of 15 February.

The report was put to a vote proposed by Stan Goodwin and seconded by Quentin Killey

**The vote was 149 in favour, 0 against and 5 abstentions**

6. Election of Officers and Committee members.

The Chairman addressed the problems of maintaining Committee numbers and advised that both Frank Tustin, Vice-Chair and Ian Macdonald, Secretary were leaving the Committee. He thanked them for their service to Thornbury u3a.

There have been no nominations for the Committee and the Chairman asked again for interested parties to come forward. He went on to add that he himself would have to relinquish the Chair in 2023. It is imperative that we get more Committee members to run this voluntary organisation. No volunteers on the day.

The Chairman expressed his thanks to Carolyn Purdy for her work on the Newsletter and to Sheila Forsyth for managing the Catering. Vote for re-election of the Committee proposed by Ian Macdonald seconded by Stan Goodwin.

**The vote was 148 in favour, 0 against and 2 abstentions.**

7. There were no further matters arising from the floor.

8. Bob Dale raised a written question prior to the meeting, relating to the hire of venues by Group Leaders and to liability in the event of problems.

The Chairman reminded members that we have cover with TAT for public liability of up to £5 million. Any person agreeing a rental should sign an agreement on behalf of Thornbury u3a and not on a personal basis. The Leader should ensure that the terms are “reasonable” and should be for the short term with cancellation clauses available. Copies of all signed agreements should be sent to the Secretary, Thornbury u3a. The Chairman thanked Bob for his question.

9. The next AGM will be Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2023 either by ZOOM or at a venue to be decided.

10. There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.43

Ian Macdonald Secretary (retired) 19 02 2022