

WARWICK DISTRICT U3A CONSTITUTION

CONSTITUTION OF THE WARWICK DISTRICT UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE, A MEMBER OF THE THIRD AGE TRUST AS AN UNINCORPORATED ASSOCIATION, formally adopted on 9th April 2003 and amended [section 13 (i)] on 18th April 2007.
Amended Section 7 (iii) on 16th December 2011 following a Special General Meeting on 14th December 2011.

1. NAME

The name of the charity is The Warwick District U3A, hereafter referred to as 'The U3A'.

2. ADMINISTRATION

Subject to the matters set out below, the Charity and its property shall be administered and managed in accordance with this constitution by members of the Management Committee, constituted by clause 6 of this constitution.

3. OBJECTS

The Objects of The U3A are:

- (i) to advance the education of the public and in particular the education of older people no longer in full time gainful employment in The Warwick District and its surrounding locality.
- (ii) The provision of appropriate facilities for leisure time and recreational activities.

4. POWERS

In furtherance of the Objects, but not otherwise, the Management Committee may exercise the following powers:

- (i) power to raise funds and to invite and receive contributions provided that in raising funds the Management Committee shall not undertake any substantial permanent trading activities and shall conform to any requirements of the law.
- (ii) power to receive donations, endowments, sponsorship, grants, legacies and subscriptions from persons desiring to promote all or any of the Objects of The U3A and to hold funds in trust for the same.
- (iii) power to buy, take on lease or in exchange any property necessary for the achievement of the Objects and to maintain and equip it for use.
- (iv) power subject to any consents required by law to sell, lease or dispose of all or any part of the property of the Charity.
- (v) power to co-operate with other charities, voluntary bodies and statutory authorities operating in furtherance of the Objects or of similar charitable purposes and to exchange information and advice with them.
- (vi) power to support any charitable trusts, associations or institutions formed for all or any of the Objects.
- (vii) power to appoint and constitute such advisory committees as the Management Committee may think fit.
- (viii) power to organize and run conferences, lectures, seminars, courses.
- (ix) power to publish books, pamphlets, reports, leaflets, journals, instructional matter and to produce films and videos.
- (x) power to participate in and assist in the development of area and regional groupings of U3As.
- (xi) power to do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the achievement of the Objects.

5. MEMBERSHIP

- (i) Membership of the U3A shall be open to older people who are no longer in full time employment and who are interested in furthering the work of 'The U3A', and who have paid the annual subscription as determined by the Management Committee and confirmed by the membership at an Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) Every individual member shall have one vote.
- (iii) The Management Committee may and for good reason terminate the membership of any individual if annual membership or other fees are unpaid 3 months after the due date or if the member acts in a way which is prejudicial to The U3A or to the running of The U3A or brings it into disrepute provided that the individual concerned shall have the right to be heard by the Management Committee accompanied by a friend who may also speak, or make written representation before a final decision is made.

6. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The management of The U3A shall be vested in a Management Committee, consisting of the members whose duty it shall be to carry out its general policy and to provide for the administration, management and control of the affairs and property of The U3A.

- (i) At the annual General Meeting of The U3A the members shall elect from amongst themselves a chairman, a vice chairman, a secretary and a treasurer (the Officers) who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting
- (ii) The Management Committee shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 10 members being:
 - (a) the Officers specified in the preceding clause.
 - (b) not less than 1 and not more than 6 members elected at the Annual General Meeting who shall hold office from the conclusion of that meeting.
- (iii) The Management Committee may in addition appoint not more than 2 co-opted members who shall have full voting rights and have tenure until the next Annual General Meeting.
- (iv) The Management Committee may co-opt ordinary Members of The U3A for specific meetings or the discussion of specific matters. They shall have full voting rights for such specific meetings or matters.
- (v) Persons who need not be members of The U3A may be invited by the Management Committee to serve because of their special expertise for specific meetings or the discussion of specific matters. They shall not have voting rights.
- (vi) Vacancies on the Management Committee which arise through resignation or termination during the year can be filled from the membership by the Management Committee, and such an appointee shall complete the term of service of the member he or she is replacing and shall be eligible for re-election in the prescribed manner at the next Annual general Meeting.
- (vii) The proceedings of the Management Committee shall not be invalidated by any vacancy among their number or by any failure to appoint or any defect in the appointment, election or co-option of a member.
- (viii) A member of the Management Committee shall cease to hold office if he or she:
 - (a) is disqualified from acting as a member of the Management Committee by virtue of section 72 of the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that provision).
 - (b) becomes incapable by means of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his or her own affairs..

- (c) is absent without the permission of the Management Committee from 3 consecutive meetings and the Management Committee resolve that his or her office be vacated.
- (d) is subject to a vote of no confidence from the Management Committee as a result of actions which bring The U3A into disrepute or conduct prejudicial to The U3A or failure to abide by the terms of this constitution or decisions of the Management Committee.
- (e) notifies in writing to the Management Committee a wish to resign (but only if at least four members of the Management Committee will remain in office when the notice of resignation is to take effect which shall be at least 21 days from the receipt of the notification).

7. ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.

- (i) The election of members of the Management Committee shall be held at the Annual General Meeting of the U3A.
- (ii) The newly elected Management Committee shall take office at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting.
- (iii) Officers shall serve for a period of 1 year and Committee members for a period of 2 years. Retiring Officers may stand for re-election provided that no-one may hold the office of Chairman or Vice-Chairman for more than a maximum of 3 consecutive years without an intervening period of at least 1 year, except that a retiring Vice-Chairman may stand immediately for the post of Chairman
- (iv) If insufficient nominations are received to fill the vacancies for Committee members, the Management Committee may, as a last resort, appeal to the assembled members at the Annual General Meeting for permission to ask whether anyone present was willing to reconsider and put themselves forward as a candidate for one of the vacancies.
- (v) In the event of no nominations being received for an Officer post or no member of the newly elected committee being willing to take on that Officer position a majority decision can be taken by the Management Committee to ask the retiring officer to stay until the next AGM.

8. MEETINGS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- (i) The Management Committee shall hold at least 4 ordinary meetings each year.
- (ii) A special meeting may be called at any time by the Chairman or by any two members of the Management Committee upon not less than seven days' notice being given to other members of the Management Committee of the matters to be discussed unless it concerns the appointment of a co-opted member in which case not less than twenty one days must be given.
- (iii) The Chairman shall chair the meetings and in his or her absence the vice-chairman shall take over or if he or she is also absent the Management Committee shall choose one of their number to be chairman before any business is conducted.
- (iv) There shall be a quorum when at least one half of the members of the Management Committee for the time being including at least one Officer or three members of the Management Committee including at least one Officer whichever is the greater, are present at the meeting.
- (v) Every matter shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members of the Management Committee present and voting on the question but in the case of equality of votes the Chairman of the meeting shall have a second or casting vote.
- (vi) The Management Committee shall keep minutes of the proceedings at meetings of the Management Committee and any sub-committees and these minutes shall be available for inspection should a member request it.
- (vii) The Management Committee may from time to time make and alter rules for the conduct of their business, the summoning and conduct of their meetings and custody of documents. No rule may be made which is inconsistent with this constitution.

- (viii) The Management Committee may appoint sub-committees consisting of at least one member of the Management Committee for the purpose of performing any function or duty which in the opinion of the Management Committee would be more conveniently undertaken or carried out by a sub-committee, provided that all acts and proceedings of any such sub-committees shall be fully and promptly reported to the Management Committee.
- (ix) No Management Committee member shall be chargeable or responsible for loss caused by any act done or omitted to be done by him/her or by any other Management Committee member or by reason of any mistake or omission made in good faith by any Management Committee member or by reason of any other matter other than willful and individual fraud or wrongdoing or actions knowingly beyond the scope of a specific authority or limit thereon on the part of the Management Committee member in question.

9. FINANCE

- (i) The funds of The U3A, including all donations, contributions and bequests, shall be paid into an account or accounts operated by the Management Committee in the name of The U3A at such bank or building society as the Management Committee shall from time to time decide. All cheques drawn on such **account or accounts** must be signed by at least 2 Management Committee members, at least one of whom shall be an Officer.
- (ii) The funds belonging to The U3A shall be applied only in furthering the objects.
- (iii) No funds shall be transferred in any way to Committee members, provided that nothing herein shall prevent the payment in good faith of reasonable and proper out of pocket expenses incurred in the course of U3A work.
- (iv) All proper costs, charges and expenses incidental to the management of The U3A and membership of the Third Age Trust may be defrayed from the funds of The U3A.

10. PROPERTY

All property of The U3A shall be applied solely towards the objects of The U3A. Ownership of property is vested in The U3A and items may with the agreement of the committee be transferred on a temporary basis to a nominated member's home in pursuance of his/her designated role until such time as the member's tenure of office ceases or the Management Committee requests its return.

11. ACCOUNTS

The Management Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that Act) with regard to:

- (i) the keeping of accounting records for The U3A.
- (ii) the preparation of annual statements of account for The U3A.
- (iii) the independent examination of the statements of account of The U3A; and
- (iv) the transmission of the statements of account of The U3A to the Charity Commission.

12. ANNUAL REPORT

The Management Committee shall comply with their obligations under the Charities Act 1993 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification of that act) with regard to the preparation of an annual return and its transmission to the Commission.

13. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- (i) There shall be an Annual General Meeting of The U3A which shall be held within 6 calendar months of the end of the preceding financial year of that organization and not later than 15 months after the preceding Annual General Meeting.
- (ii) Every Annual General Meeting shall be called by the Management Committee. The secretary shall give at least 21 days' notice of the Annual General Meeting to all members of The U3A. All members of The U3A are entitled to attend and vote at the meeting.
- (iii) Accidental omission to give notice to any member shall not invalidate the proceedings of any General Meeting.
- (iv) The Management Committee shall present to each Annual General Meeting the report and accounts of The U3A for the preceding year for approval.
- (v) The Management Committee shall seek approval for the appointment of the examiner for the accounts.
- (vi) Nominations for election to the Management Committee must be made in writing and must be in the hands of the Secretary of the Management Committee at least 14 days before the Annual General Meeting. Should nominations exceed vacancies, election shall be by ballot. (see also paragraphs 7(iv) and 7(v)).

Any proposals to amend the constitution subject to Clause 16 shall be considered at the Annual General Meeting and any other business published in the agenda.

14. SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

The Management Committee may call a Special General Meeting of the charity at any time and if at least 10% of the members request such a meeting in writing stating the business to be considered, the Secretary shall call such a meeting. At least 21 days' notice shall be given. The notice must state the business to be discussed. There shall be a quorum when 10% of the members are present.

15. PROCEDURE AT GENERAL MEETINGS.

- (i) The secretary or other person specially appointed by the Management Committee shall keep a full record of proceedings at every General Meeting of The U3A.
- (ii) There shall be a quorum when at least 10% of the number of members of The U3A are present at any General Meeting.
- (iii) If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting to begin a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened at the request of members shall be dissolved. In any other case it shall be adjourned until a suitable day and time as the Management Committee may direct, provided that 21 days' notice is given to all members. If at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting, the members present shall constitute a quorum.
- (iv) The Chairman of the U3A shall be the Chairman of the General Meeting at which he/she is present, and in his/her absence the Vice Chairman shall take over, or if he/she is also absent the Management Committee shall choose one of their number to be chairman before any business is conducted.
- (v) If there is a tied vote the Chairman should have a single casting vote.

16. ALTERATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION

- (i) Subject to the following provisions of this clause, the Constitution may be altered by a resolution passed by not less than two thirds of the members present and voting at a General Meeting. The notice of the General Meeting must include notice of the resolution, setting out the terms of the alteration proposed.
- (ii) No amendment may be made to clause 1 (the name of the charity) clause 3 (the objects clause) clause 17 (the dissolution clause) or this clause without the prior consent in writing of the Commissioners.
- (iii) No amendment may be made which would have the effect of making the Charity cease to be a charity at law.

The Management Committee shall promptly send to the Charity Commission a copy of any amendment made under this clause.

17. DISSOLUTION

If the Management Committee decides that it is necessary or advisable to dissolve The U3A it shall call a meeting of all members of The U3A, of which not less than 21 days' notice (stating the terms of the resolution to be proposed) shall be given. If the proposal is confirmed by a two thirds majority of those present and voting the Management Committee shall have the power to realize any assets held by or on behalf of the Charity. Any assets remaining after the satisfaction of any proper debts and liabilities shall be given or transferred to other such local charitable institution or institutions having objects similar to the Objects of The U3A as the members of The U3A may determine or to the Third Age Trust Registered Charity No. 288007. A copy of the statement of accounts or account and statement, for the final accounting period of The U3A must be sent to the Charity Commission.

Dated 15 December 2011, modified in accordance with the decision of a SGM held on 14th December 2011 at Dormer place.