

MAGHULL AND LYDIATE U3A
MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,
HELD AT 10 A.M. ON 22ND MAY, 2018

Present: 119 members

Apologies: Simon Rennie, Molly Rennie, Denise McMullen, Bill Ashton, Margaret Ashton

- 1. Minutes of Annual General Meeting held Tuesday 23rd May, 2017**
Acceptance of Minutes proposed by Stuart Findlay; seconded by Tony Kneebone
- 2. Matters arising:** none
- 3. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts:**

Clive Walker commented that he was retiring as Treasurer after four years, during which time he had worked with four Chairmen and had seen the U3A grow, with many more groups being set up during that period.

The Treasurer commented that the work had been quite hard at times because of this, but mostly enjoyable thanks to the friendship and co-operation of the Group Leaders. He wished to express his thanks to John Barnett, the Independent Examiner, who has diligently checked the accounts on a quarterly basis. The Treasurer had invited him to attend the AGM, so he could be thanked in person, but he was unable to attend owing to undertaking voluntary work on Tuesday mornings.

The Treasurer also wished to thank Frank Mercer, our Vice Chairman and unofficial accountant, both for preparing the actual final accounts and for checking on figures throughout the year.

He also wished to thank David Allen for his support and advice, not only while he was Chairman but during the Treasurer's whole term of office.

The Treasurer commented that, with the approval of the meeting, the role of Treasurer will be taken over by Stuart Findlay, supported by a team of helpers, including Clive, either in the main body of the hall or behind the screens. Clive commented that he would be back on June 12th for his first stint of duty in the team.

The Treasurer then handed over to Frank Mercer to go through the accounts.

Frank Mercer commented that the normal reaction to the presentation of accounts is apathy, but that had come under fire in the last two U3A meetings, so he jokingly wore a tin helmet!

There was very little difference to report from the previous year's accounts, apart from the additional expenses arising from the anniversary celebrations. Gift aid had dropped because of changes in the taxation rules which resulted in some people being taken out of the tax bracket. Coffee morning income was down, but sales of books and other income were similar to the previous year's.

There was a slight fall in expenses resulting from the temporary closure of the Baptist Hall. Administration costs were higher, caused by the cost of First Aid and defibrillator training, as well as the purchase of additional tables for coffee mornings. Newsletter costs were down because of cheaper printing arrangements. Welfare and other costs were similar to the previous year's.

Reserves brought forward were £18,700.

Following guidance from The Third Age Trust, no U3A should carry reserves of more than six months' running costs, whereas Maghull and Lydiate U3A had been aiming for two years' running costs. Consequently the committee took the decision to reduce membership fees by half this year. It was thought that the U3A did not need more than the six months' reserves because no-one would suffer really seriously if the organisation closed (unlike for example a charity offering cancer support where real hardship might be caused if the reserves were inadequate.)

A query was raised regarding the reduced subscription usually offered towards the end of the year. If the half price practice was followed the U3A would be subsidising membership. It was agreed to leave this matter to the committee to sort out.

(There was a query regarding the balances in one group account, but this was to be dealt with outside the AGM.)

Cliff Duncan proposed that the accounts be accepted; he was seconded by Bert Dowell. The accounts were accepted.

Thanks were expressed to Frank Mercer for presenting the accounts.

4. **Appointment of the Independent Examiner:** this was postponed as currently the U3A is still looking for someone to act.

5. **Amendment to the Constitution:**

Proposed amendment to Object:

“ 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, in Maghull and the surrounding area.”

A query was raised as to whether or not semi-retired people were covered for membership; it was agreed that they were. Frank Mercer pointed out that the wording has been agreed by the Third Age Trust after much discussion and accepted by the Charity Commission.

The new wording was proposed by Frank Mercer and seconded by Denis Stevens. The amendment was agreed unanimously.

6. **Interim Chairperson's Report: Dot Brannigan**

'I hope everyone enjoyed the slide show which for me demonstrated the fabulous variety of opportunities to enjoy ourselves, that being a member of our U3A brings.

You will be pleased to know that I'm not intending for this to be a long report. Last year was our 10th Anniversary year and our aim, which we achieved, was to start 10 new groups; this year we have seen those groups develop and evolve and happily we have seen members from the new groups take over as co-ordinators or leaders of those groups. Plus we have an additional 5 new groups this year

Looking back over the year a lot of our members have put **keeping fit and active** high on their list of priorities. Being active has been shown to make you happier. Active Sefton offered to run a 6 week

free musical exercise class for some of our members. It proved so popular that we were able to start two classes and to date as many as 50 of our members have joined these classes. In fact they have proved so successful that most people have now continued on a pay as you go basis. We are continuing to work with Active Sefton who are keen to start another type of class for the over 65's in the area. **Watch this space.**

We now have 5 trained Nordic Walking Leaders amongst our members with a Monday morning and Monday evening walk each week. The training and use of the walking poles is free and it's a great way to become more active.

On walking again, our Canal Walking Group will complete walking the Leeds to Liverpool canal (126.5 miles) this Thursday. As a member of that group, I have to say it has been fantastic and a real testament to the ethos and way of working within U3A – a few people share an idea, enthuse others, work out what needs to be done and just do it in a great fun way. Members of the group have stepped up and taken on the lead in organising the logistics and updating the website with details from each leg of the walk. The group under the expert guidance of David Scott is now looking for their next project.

Netball England won a surprise gold at the Commonwealth Games. Our U3A continues to work with Netball England and our walking netball team is growing steadily. It's great fun whilst exercising – the group are keen for another 4 or more members to join them.

With Clive's retirement as Treasurer, (more of that shortly) we went out to groups asking for volunteers to start a Treasury Team and this proved very successful. My immense thanks to the new team of 10 people who between them on a rota basis now complete the Treasury task before close on a Tuesday morning. Last Tuesday which was particularly busy, the money was ready to bank by 11.15. To put this in context, previously Clive took the money collected on Tuesday morning home with him every week and to his absolute credit would often spend a large portion of his Tuesdays on our finances - which is very unfair. The Treasury team have asked me to thank everyone who pays into them for their co-operation which has meant they can achieve such excellent results in balancing early and closing the books till the following week.

Whilst it's not viable to mention each of our 65 groups, our leaders continue to be committed to providing excellent learning opportunities (whilst having fun) for our members. We have an amazing number and variety of extremely well organised day trips, garden trips and holidays to suit all. Members are encouraged to become National Trust members thus often gaining free entrance and in addition this also supports the heritage of our country.

The best exercise or activity for all of us is the one we enjoy the most, whether it be learning a new language, being part of a walking group or going on a trip - being with other like - minded people all adds to the fun and enjoyment.

I would like to say a huge thanks to Clive who has chosen to step down as Treasurer, for his work and dedication over the years in ensuring our money is accurate, properly recorded and banked.

To Clare (Baxter) who is stepping down as Secretary. Clare has carried out her role with patience and great accuracy and has been a true friend in supporting me in my role as Interim Chair - I will miss you greatly, Clare, even though I have every confidence in Lin, our proposed new Secretary.

Joyce (Taylor) has been a very long serving member of Committee and, having done a great job is choosing to stand down. Thank you Joyce.

Thank you also to Ron (Fazakerley) for his work as a Committee member- again Ron has chosen to stand down.

Thank you to John Barnett our independent examiner for his work on our accounts.

Huge thanks to Mary Prendergast who has done such a great job on membership and renewals over the years. Mary is choosing to step back and 'just enjoy being a U3A member again' - Sincere thanks, Mary, for a job really well done.

And Lil – you look after us all and are quick to acknowledge when we are ill or going through difficult times. Thank you greatly for your care and discreet attention Lil

A round of applause please for all

And finally I would like to say thank you everyone who helps keep our U3A operating seamlessly week by week. Without those who set out our tables, maintain our website and our database, prepare our newsletter, make our Tuesday drinks, lead our groups, look after our finances..... I could go on and on.....we would not be the fabulous U3A that we are. Sincere thanks to each and every one of you .

I have been a U3A member for less than two years joining Committee when asked and then taking on the Interim Chair role within the last six months. I have found both roles frustrating at times but more so hugely rewarding. You may know as I have said it lots of times, I genuinely believe our U3A is amazing and I hope to continue in the role - I know, that working together we will go from strength to strength. Thank you .'

7. Election of Officers and committee members:

Chairman:

Dot Brannigan: proposed by Clare Baxter; seconded by Brenda McKenzie: elected unopposed

Treasurer:

Stuart Findlay: proposed by Brenda McKenzie; seconded by Frank Mercer: elected unopposed

Secretary:

Linda Simms: proposed by Dot Brannigan; seconded by George Birchall: elected unopposed

Committee members:

George Birchall: proposed by Clare Baxter; seconded by Pat Kelly

Tony Dodd: proposed by Dot Bannigan; seconded by Margaret Kendall

Rhona Simons: proposed by Marj Atlay; seconded by Sylvia Adams

George Birchall, Tony Dodd and Rhoda Simon were elected by a show of hands.

8. A.O.B.

Brian Leach asked if members would be notified of the appointment of an Independent Examiner; he was assured that this would be the case. (appointment or finding someone.....does committee have the authority to appoint or does it have to go to members?)

9. Date of next Annual General Meeting: 21st May 2019

10. The meeting closed at 11.00am.

MINUTES ACCEPTED AT AGM ON 21 MAY 2019.

PROPOSED BY: GEORGE BIRCHALL

SECONDED BY: CLIFF DUNCAN