



Minutes of u3a Thornbury AGM 6th February 2023 (relating to year ending 31st August 2022)

1. Mmbers present:

Committee: Norman Taylor, Steve Hughes, Louise Ingsley, Don Grundell, Mike Farquhar, Sue James, Pat Wells, Jackie Gitsham, Steve Wells, Trevor Daniels.

A total of 316 members were present in person, a further 60 devices (some of which may have been used by more than one member) were logged into the live stream on YouTube.

2. Apologies for absence

Received from over 160 members

3. Approval of Previous Minutes from AGM on 15th February 2022

These had been available to members on the u3a Website and were accepted as correct

4. Matters arising from the minutes

It was noted that 2 questions had been raised at the meeting

- On the level of reserves: this has been reviewed and Reserves Policy had been updated
- On investment of reserves: an Instant Access Reserve Account” has now been established

Acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Ian MacDonald, seconded by Jackie Gitsham and approved unanimously.

5. Chairman’s Report

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He also recorded thanks to Thornbury Castle Hotel for the use of their car park.

The report will be found within the AGM documents and incorporates the Trustees Report which is submitted to the Charity Commission

Key issues:

- Covid restricted activity with only one Open Visit, and one Open meeting (held on Zoom). However both were well supported. U3a also participated in a “Jigsaw” event which showcased various activities within Thornbury.
- There were 2 New Members meetings to encourage membership. Overall membership is still below pre-Covid level.
- There are currently 75 Interest groups within Thornbury u3a, despite several groups having to close because there was no Group Leader. A new Group “English for Ukrainians” was formed to offer English lessons to Ukraine refugees.
- The National u3a had proposed an increase in the contribution paid by local groups but this was defeated at their AGM. Thornbury u3a has, in fact, reduced the subscription we charge from £7 to £6.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Ian MacDonald, Seconded by Steve Wells and approved unanimously.

6 Treasurers Report on Financial Statement

The Treasurer's Report is contained within a separate document which is retained with the AGM papers. To summarise, the finances are in good shape and following an overall surplus of some £5,000 for the year to 30/09/22, total u3a reserves (including Groups) stand at around £60,000. In light of this, the decision was made last November to reduce membership subscriptions from £7.00 to £6.00 for 2023.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Ian MacDonald, Seconded by Jackie Gitsham and approved unanimously.

7. Election of Committee

Barbara Jones (Beacon Administrator) and Anne Reed (Health and Safety) have stepped down. Steve Wells has been co-opted as Beacon Administrator.

Nominations for the vacant roles of Chairman and Vice Chairman had been received. Roger Steer (nominated for Chairman) and Paige Warr (nominated for Vice Chairman) made brief statements to introduce themselves to members. Since there were no other nominations they were both elected by a unanimous vote.

The remaining members of the Committee were unanimously re-elected to their posts. The Chairman also thanked Sheila Forsythe for her work in organising refreshments throughout the year and Carolyn Purdy for her editing of the quarterly Newsletter. Carolyn has now left the u3a and Don Grundell will replace her as editor.

8. Appointment of Examiner of accounts

Ian Gross agreed to continue in this role.

9. Motions from the Floor

None

10. Any Other Business

Francis Haughton asked if there was a policy on the use of recyclable cups at group meeting. The Chairman suggested that this is a matter for individual groups

Bob Dale commented that financial support for Covid-hit groups had been welcomed.

The Chairman reported that the seat sponsored by Thornbury u3a will be reinstated as soon as work on the bus stop near it has been completed.

Steve Hughes presented the outgoing Chairman with a gift in thanks for his leadership, especially during the complex period of Covid.

The meeting closed at 11.15

Pat Wells

7th February 2023