

PADDOCK WOOD U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 12th AGM held at St. Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood on Thursday 12th October 2023

Present – Committee Comprising:

Michele Sinclair	<i>Chair</i>	Anne Trevillion	<i>Treasurer</i>	Wendy Wollen	<i>Secretary</i>
Jeff Bewsey	<i>MembSec</i>	Fred Lemont	<i>Hon Pres</i>	Jenny Carney	<i>Welfare</i>
Barry Ednie	<i>Cttee Member</i>				

98 members, including the committee identified above, were present therefore the meeting was quorate.

Apologies: Jan Wheddon; Michael Smith; Linda Fearnley; Ron Trevillion

1. Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday 13th October 2022

Proposed by Barry Ednie and Seconded by Colin Mark respectively.

2. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on the year 2023, thanking:

- The Quattro Group, under the leadership of Linda Read, Clive & Eileen Cook, Colin Mark, Jan Wheddon along with Sue & Jeremy Thompson for their hard work.
- Nigel Pye for his work within the Theatre Group and Colin Beavington for his administrative assistance.
- Pat Stallwood for leading the Study Days Group and the team consisting of Keith Sinclair, Sue & Jeremy Thompson, Jan & Geoff Wheddon, Wendy Wollen and Michael J. Smith.
- Peter Stallwood & Simone Prince for organizing our Seminars, along with Lorna Love and Susan Holleran who regularly help with refreshments at Seminars.
- The Refreshment Coordinators, Pat Stallwood & Valerie Bourne, along with Wendy Wollen and the team of Refreshment Volunteers.
- The ladies of the Welcome Team, who whilst they have formally stepped down from that role will continue to support the Membership Secretary at the monthly meeting registration desk. They are Hazel Jenkins, Pauline Bowyer, Marilyn Britton & Joan Read.
- Members of the Committee
- Fred Lemont for the Monthly Newsletter
- Ron Trevillion for our splendid Website.

3. Membership Secretary's Report

Jeff Bewsey reported that since January 2023, our membership had increased by 93 to 650 – our highest ever.

The Chair put forward the motion rescinding the monthly meeting fee as of 1st January 2024.

Proposed by: Peter Stallwood **Seconded by:** Carol Probert.

The motion was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

4. Trustees Annual Report & Accounts – Treasurer

The Treasurer, Anne Trevillion, presented the inspected accounts and offered thanks to Jeremy Thompson who acted as our Independent Examiner. She explained that we are in a healthy position with adequate reserves, with the day-to-day income and expenditure broadly similar to 2022-23.

The accounts were **proposed by:** Mary Anderson and **seconded by:** Hazel Jenkins

The motion was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

5. Appointment of Independent Examiner – Jeremy Thompson for 2023/24

Proposed by: Anne Trevillion **Seconded by:** Nigel Pye

The motion was passed unanimously by a show of hands.

6. Nominations received for the Committee.

Two members had indicated that they wanted to join the Committee:

- Ron Trevillion **proposed by:** Christine Spicer and **seconded by:** Art Taylor
- Keith Merrin **proposed by:** Joy O'Connell and **seconded by:** Susan Holleran.

The nominations were passed unanimously by a show of hands.

7. Election of the Committee

MS continued by saying that the current Committee were willing to stand again.

Anne Trevillion	<i>Treasurer</i>	Jeff Bewsey	<i>Membership Secretary</i>
Wendy Wollen	<i>Secretary</i>	Jan Wheddon	<i>Interest Groups Coordinator</i>

Jenny Carney	<i>Welfare</i>	Linda Fearnley	<i>Speakers' Coordinator</i>
Michael Smith	<i>Cttee Member</i>	Barry Ednie	<i>Cttee Member</i>
Michele Sinclair	<i>Chair</i>		

Note: Jan Wheddon, Linda Fearnley and Michael Smith were not present.

Proposed by: Jeremy Thompson **Seconded by:** Alan Thomas
Passed unanimously by a show of hands.

8. Election of Honorary President

Fred Lemont agreed to stand as President again.

Proposed by: Lorna Love **Seconded by:** Margaret Swaite
Passed unanimously by a show of hands.

9. Subscriptions

The committee proposed that subscriptions be increased as follows:

- Single membership from £16 to £18
- Couples' membership from £30 to £34

Proposed by: Marian Barnes **Seconded by:** Tricia Bewsey
Passed unanimously by a show of hands.

10. Constitution

Alterations to our Constitution have been made and are based on the Third Age Trust model document which addresses issues caused by the Covid lock-down rules, rules on the retirement of committee members by extending their period of service, electronic communications and updated general rules and Charity Commission regulations.

The Third Age Trust have approved our amendments.

At this stage, and prior to agreeing the Constitution alterations, the Chair included a relevant item from **Section 11** on the Agenda – **Previously Asked Questions**, viz:

Tabled Question (1) *“Apart from the obvious, please could the Committee clarify what benefits the changes to the PWU3A Constitution are intended to achieve?”*

The Chair pointed out that she had already answered that question satisfactorily by indicating above the issues that had been addressed due to the Covid lock-down.

At this point, the questioner interrupted the meeting trying to debate the responses to the questions. However once order had been restored the Chair continued:

The next tabled question asked:

“Please could the Committee explain why it has decided that, as of the 2024 membership year, this U3A will no longer offer the status of Associate Member? Associate Members are a valuable and valued members of this U3A and bring much benefit to it. This decision could have serious consequences for those Interest Groups that will be affected and it will bring little, if any, material benefit to the U3A”.

The Chair stated that these Associate Members are not charged any fees at all, which doesn't seem fair as they may well be taking the place of full members in some Interest Groups as well as creating other difficulties. Therefore after careful deliberation, the Committee took the decision that Associate Membership should cease from January 2024.

At this point, there was a further interruption by the same member. The Chair continued by asking for agreement for the amendments to the Constitution.

The motion was **proposed by:** Jeremy Thompson and **seconded by:** Colin Mark.
Passed unanimously by a show of hands.

11. Previously Asked Questions

The Chair continued by saying that 2 of the Previously Asked Questions had been answered, but the final one was:

“Please would the Committee explain the thinking behind spending £529.00 on a laptop that will be for the sole use of the PWU3A Treasurer?”

The Chair responded by saying in order to future-proof our U3A financial records, that a computer, purchased with up-to-date software and protection and is the property of our Charity, is only used for keeping the financial records with no personal information on it at all. This means that should something unfortunate happen and the Treasurer be unable to continue in the role, that the computer and our U3A records would be safe and immediately available to the successor, without the need to extract information from a personal computer.

The Chair finished by saying that she hoped that the questions had been fully answered and thanked the membership for attending and helping us through the formal proceedings.

There being no further business the AGM closed at 3.40pm with the Chair inviting the audience to adjourn for a restorative cup of tea.

Signed:

Date:

ADDENDUM

Subsequent to the AGM, it was found that some statements concerning the Associate Members as we termed them, were inaccurate. These errors are being rectified, new policies are being written and will be ratified by the Committee to clarify the terms and arrangements for shared groups with other U3As. Members will be informed as soon as the policies are finalised.

Signed:

Dated: