

## PADDOCK WOOD U3A ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

### Minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM held at St. Andrew's Church, Paddock Wood on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October 2024

#### Present – Committee Comprising:

Trevor Carney	<i>Vice Chair</i>	Neil Lynn	<i>Treasurer</i>	Wendy Wollen	<i>Secretary</i>
Jeff Bewsey	<i>MembSec</i>	Michael Smith	<i>Trustee</i>	Barry Ednie	<i>Trustee</i>
Linda Fearnley	<i>Speakers'Co</i>	Jenny Carney	<i>Welfare</i>	Fred Lemont	<i>Hon President</i>

**Apologies from Committee Members:** Michele Sinclair/*Chair*; Jan Wheddon/*Int.Groups'Co*

**Total Membership Present** (*including the Committee*) was **73** and therefore the required quorum was achieved.

**Other Members' Apologies:** Sue & Jeremy Thompson; Brian Burnett; Trevor Sampson.

#### Agenda Items:

##### 1. Agreement of the Minutes of the 2023 AGM

**Proposed by** Keith Sinclair and **Seconded by** Tricia Bewsey.

All those in favour raised their hands; there were 2 dissentions.

##### 2. Chair's Report – Michele Sinclair/Chair was unfortunately absent due to ill-health but the Chair's report was delivered by Trevor Carney/Vice Chair.

- Considerable thanks were extended to Michele who has served the PW U3A in an exemplary fashion for 6 years as Chair including during the Covid lockdown during which time she kept everybody's spirits lifted providing support and encouragement during that difficult period. The PW U3A has grown and developed under her leadership and to show our appreciation she is being asked to continue to be involved as our Honorary President for the coming year.
- Thanks were extended to the many members who regularly give up their time to provide entertainment, refreshment and learning opportunities for the rest of us. Names of those involved in The Quattro Group, Theatre Group, Study Days, Seminars, Refreshment Team, Membership Secretary Support, Interest Group Leaders and The Welfare Team were mentioned.
- Individual thanks were given to Fred Lemont for the Monthly Newsletter and to Ron Trevillion for the Website and for many years the Membership Handbook as well as to Anne Trevillion for 3 years as our Treasurer.
- Further thanks were extended to the Committee Members current as well as those who have recently stepped down; without the Committee there wouldn't be a PW U3A.

- The Vice Chair brought his report to a close with a sobering thought reminding the membership that 3 U3As locally had closed during this past year due to the lack of members stepping up to offer their time and expertise to help run their U3As. He subtly reminded the membership that we needed members to step up and offer their support to fill committee opportunities as they became available – failing which the PW U3A might also be in a similar situation.

### 3. Membership Secretary's Report

JB reported:

- 2024 has seen an increase of membership by 74 since January to a new high of 661.
- Many members now come from outside of Paddock Wood with them choosing our U3A over others.
- Contact with members is now easier with 655 of the 661 now having online access which makes it easier to keep members up to date with everything that our U3A has to offer.
- For those members who still do not have online access, JB indicated that we are here to help them get started; they only have to ask.

### 4. Financial Report & Examined Accounts.

These were prepared by the outgoing Treasurer, Anne Trevillion and presented by Neil Lynn. NL gave a brief overview of our finances explaining that the accounts had been examined by Jeremy Thompson who attached his Independent Examiner's report.

Appreciation and thanks had been extended to Jeremy who has reported on the accounts for several years but is now stepping down. Brian Burnett has agreed to be the Independent Examiner for 2024/25.

#### Acceptance of the Accounts:

**Proposed by:** Tricia Bewsey

**Seconded by:** Liz Goddard

All those in favour raised their hands; there were no dissenters.

### 5. Appointment of the Independent Examiner for 2024/25

PW U3A wish to extend their thanks to Jeremy Thompson who has, for several years acted as our Independent Examiner, but who is now stepping down from the role. **Brian Burnett** has offered to be our Independent Examiner for 2024/25 however, he is unfortunately unable to be here today, but sends his apologies.

#### Acceptance of this Appointment:

**Proposed by:** Josie Ridger.

**Seconded by:** Colin Beavington.

All those in favour raised their hands; there were no dissenters.

## 6. Election of the New Committee:

Some members of the existing committee are standing down, namely: **Michele Sinclair**/Chair and **Jan Wheddon**/Interest Groups' Coordinator.

In recent months other members have resigned: **Ron Trevillion**/Vice Chair replaced by Trevor Carney; **Anne Trevillion**/Treasurer who has been replaced by Neil Lynn, and **Keith Merrin**/Trustee.

Some other members of the Committee *had* been due to step down as they had completed their years of tenure, but the TAT has agreed our Resolution to extend this tenure and the Charity Commission, who we were *obliged to advise*, have accepted and registered this change.

The following members of the Committee have indicated that they are willing to stand again:

- **Wendy Wollen**/Secretary – has agreed to continue in the role until a replacement can be found.
- **Jeff Bewsey**/Membership Secretary – has agreed to continue in the role until a replacement can be found.
- **Jenny Carney**/Welfare
- **Linda Fearnley**/Speakers' Coordinator
- **Michael Smith**/Trustee
- **Barry Ednie**/Trustee

### Acceptance of the new committee:

**Proposed by** Pat Lynn                      **Seconded by:** Keith Sinclair

All those in favour raised their hands; there were no dissenters.

### Nominations for Committee Roles:

**Name:**            **Fred Lemont** as *(Interim) Chair* (whilst someone else is sought)

**Proposed by:** Jenny Carney            **Seconded by:** Margaret Warner...

All those in favour raised their hands; there were no dissenters.

**Name:**            **Trevor Sampson** as Trustee

*(He sent his apologies for not being able to attend this meeting)*

**Proposed by:** Fred Lemont            **Seconded by:** Trevor Carney

All those in favour raised their hands; there were no dissenters.

**7. Appointment of Honorary President**

**Name: Michele Sinclair**

**Proposed by:** Wendy Wollen      **Seconded by:** Lorna Love

All those in favour raised their hands; there were no dissenters.

**8. Previously asked questions – one question had been received:**

Although the detail of this question covers one side of A4, it also related to a question that the same members asked at the 2023 AGM regarding the Committee’s decision to remove **Associate Membership of our U3A**. The basis of *today’s question* is:

**Question:** *“Would the Committee confirm when it intends to “rectify” and repair the hole created by the decision taken at last year’s AGM to remove Associate Members from the structure of the PW U3A membership?”*

**Response:** Associate Membership only related to **12 members** from other U3As or about **6%** of the membership at the time. They weren’t charged any fees at all and many of them when approached, agreed to join the **PW U3A** in order to enjoy **ALL** of the benefits and not just that of a particular Interest Group. We have subsequently agreed a **Shared Groups Policy** which allows members from different U3As to join together to enjoy a particular activity – the **U3A Choir** is a prime example, being made up of members from several local U3As.

**There being no further business, the PW U3A 2024 Annual General Meeting** was deemed closed at 3.25pm with TC inviting the audience to adjourn for a restorative cup of tea.

**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....