

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Coventry Sherbourne u3a Committee

Held on Thursday 6th February 2025 at 2.05pm

Present: Anne Tithecott (Chair), Bill Day, Maureen Day (Sec), Joy Copeland, Ann Karabinas, Jenny Smith, Pip Friel, Ness Makepeace, John Karabinas (Treasurer), 45 members.

Apologies: Carole Leake

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the last meetings were agreed by the members and signed by the Chair.

The Chairwoman, Anne Tithecott, welcomed everyone to the u3a Annual General Meeting.

Constitution

We gave notice at the last meeting that we needed to make changes to our Constitution to bring it up to date. The committee has decided to adopt the model National u3a Constitution, most of this, is not that different to our current Constitution, but includes mention of using electronic means of communication, as and when necessary. The model Constitution refers to members of the committee as Trustees. In clause 7, section 16, it states that the maximum total period a Trustee can serve is 9 years, whether continuously or not. As all but one member of the current committee has served nine years or more and despite our best efforts to recruit new members on to the committee this clause would mean the closure of our u3a. Clause 8, section 16, also states that no one may serve on the committee or be an officer for more than 3 years, without a break of at least one year. Again, in view of the lack of members coming forward to hold officer positions, this does not work for us. We therefore plan to change clause 7 to read as

“No-one may hold any specific officer position or be an ordinary trustee for a period in excess of three years without re-election”. Clause 8 will be removed.

Does the membership accept these changes to Section 16, to meet the needs of our u3a.

The vote was unanimous with all members present voting for the motion.

Election of committee members

All members of the current committee have now resigned. They have all agreed to serve again under our new constitution and have been proposed and seconded by various members of our u3a.

Ordinary trustees – Joy Copeland, Janet Foot, Pip Friel, Ann Karabinas, Tonessa Makepeace, Chris Porch & Jenny Smith.

Does the membership accept their re-election. The vote for was unanimous. (47).

The Officers – Chairwoman- Anne Tithecote; Vice Chair – Bill Day, Treasurer – John Karabinas & Secretary – Maureen Day.

Does the membership accept their re-election. The Vote for was unanimous (50).

We still have one vacancy on the committee. Is there anyone willing to fill this. No response.

Chairwoman's Report

To summarise the main points:

The year since our last AGM has been a positive one. We have welcomed new members, and the interest groups continue to be supported, including the new Bite Size Britain and Learn to play Canasta. I wish that more members would attend the interest groups. Why not go along and try something new, you may widen your u3a friendship circle. Perhaps you could start and lead a new group, linked to your interests, hobbies and knowledge. Remember, it does not have to run monthly. We now have more male members, and the committee is aware that groups such as craft and canvas may not be appealing so if any of our male members have ideas, interests and knowledge to share in more male focused groups please speak to a committee member. We will do our best to facilitate new groups. We have had a range of speakers at the monthly meetings including a magician, a film about old Coventry, a talk about the Coventry Blitz, a right good sing-along from over a 100-year period and a dramatic performance about Guy Fawkes. There will be many more in the months to come. We had a trip to Leicester to see Van Goch an Immersive Experience and another to see the Victorian Radical Exhibition in Birmingham.

I would like to thank several people, our volunteer tea ladies Jean, Carole, Liz & Claire; Janet for running the raffle; Phillip and Jill for running the book and jigsaw stall and Rita for sending cards to those in poor health. Thank you to

those members who help and support the committee on a more ad hoc basis, your support is necessary and welcome. Last but not least, I thank the committee for their non-stop work every month.

Approval of the Chairwoman's report was obtained.

Treasurers Report

The Treasurer, John Karabinas, gave a review of the year's income & Expenditure and produced a spreadsheet for members to view.

The main source of income is from the subscription fee and the monthly door fee, and the main source of expenditure is for room hire, fees for our speakers and annual u3a annual membership fees. At the end of the year there was a balance of £4570.62. This was slightly down from last year, but we have managed to buy a new laptop, a u3a advertising banner, and have also given some money to the Macmillan charity.

The accounts have been audited by Mr J Hone who has agreed to continue in the role in the future.

Approval of the Treasurer's report was obtained.

Approval to appoint Mr J Hone as auditor for 2025 was obtained.

Future increases in fees

The fees will remain the same at £20 for annual subs and £1.50 door fee but the committee gives notice that there may be the need to raise the annual membership fee and the monthly door fee in 2026 or the door fee before if room hire increases again.

AOB

None

The Annual General Meeting Closed at 2.31pm