Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Coventry Sherbourne u3a Committee

Held on Thursday 5th February 2026 at 2.10pm

P**resent:** Anne Tithecott (Chair), Bill Day, Maureen Day (Sec), Joy Copeland, Ann Karabinas, Chris Porch, Jenny Smith, Pip Friel, John Karabinas (Treasurer), 49 members and visitors.

Apologies: Ness Makepeace, Val Simpson, Jill Stebbings, Carol Smith, Graham Nabb.

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

Chair's Report
The Chairwoman, Anne Tithecott, welcomed everyone to the AGM.
To summarise her report:
We have had another positive year and welcomed new members to our monthly meetings. Interest groups are running well, including the new MOTO group and learn to play Canasta. I wish that more members would go along and try some of these groups, you may widen your u3a friendship circle and learn something new. Perhaps you could volunteer to start and lead a new group, linked to your interests, hobbies and knowledge. Remember, a new group does not need to run every month, it can be bimonthly, or just for 6 months. We now have more male members, and the committee is aware that groups such as craft and sewing is probably not going to be appealing to them. If any of our male members have ideas, interests and knowledge to share in more male focused interest groups, then please speak to me or any other 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 who yet again baffled us, a talk on the Plague in Coventry, post war architecture in the city centre, the history of playing cards, the work of the Lowland Rescue Service and a spooky tale of Jack the Ripper.
We had visits to Brandon Woods with a guided tour by Andrew Ireland, a trip on the Birmingham canal and a visit to Coughton Court before it reverted to private hands.
I would like to thank several people, our volunteer tea ladies, Jean, Carole, Liz and Clare who every month without fail supply us with welcome refreshments. Janet for running the raffle and supplying lovely cards and preserves, Philip and Jill for running the book and jigsaw stall, and Rita for sending cards to those in poor health. A big thank you to all the group leaders, who every month bring enthusiasm, knowledge and planning to their groups. Your work is invaluable and much appreciated. Thank you to those members who help and support the committee on a more ad hoc basis and finally the committee for the non-stop work month by month, giving their time and energy to keep this u3a running.

Approval of the Chair'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 £5071.22. This was slightly up from last year, therefore there will be no increase in subscription fees this year. We have managed to purchase 2 new fixed screens, one for the main hall and one for the small room used by the history group, and a new microphone system. We have also given 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 2026 was obtained.

Future increases in fees
The committee give notice that there may be the need to raise the annual membership fee and the monthly door fee in the future.

Election of Officers and Committee members
All committee members are within their terms of office and have agreed to stay on in their current roles. There is one vacancy still. If anyone would like to apply, please speak to the Chair or another committee member.

AOB
None submitted to Chair.

The Annual General Meeting Closed at 2.25pm

Note 1

After the meeting it was reported that next year members would be advised to pay their annual subscription fees by cash as the bank will be charging for each cheque submitted. Therefore, we will have to charge £1 extra for anyone paying by cheque.