

POCKLINGTON & DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of the eleventh Annual General Meeting

held at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 21st April 2016 at Pocklington Methodist Church

Welcome by the Chair

The Chair for 2015-16, Pauline Carter, thanked the Ukulele Group for entertaining the audience so well before the meeting started and welcomed 96 members to the 11th Annual General Meeting of Pocklington & District U3A.

1. Apologies for absence

The Secretary stated that 17 apologies had been received.

2. Minutes of the 10th A.G.M. held on 23rd^h April 2015

The Chair asked the meeting to approve the minutes of the previous A.G.M. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Ro King, seconded by Malcolm Smalley and the majority voted in favour by show of hands. There were no matters arising.

(after the close of the meeting, David Fothergill pointed out a typing error in the dates in item 5 of the 2015 minutes, which has now been corrected)

3. Chair's Report on the 2015-2016 year

The Chair said that she had had an interesting and dynamic year and been well supported by a very hard working Committee. She gave particular praise to Janet Styles, the retiring Secretary, and Steve Fraser, the retiring Past Chair, saying that both had done a sterling job on the Committee over the last 3-4 years, keeping things on the straight and narrow and always dealing with matters in a highly professional manner. She also thanked Patrick Laverack who had stepped into the role of Vice-Chair without the benefit of first being on the Committee and had coped very well.

The Chair then said that membership had continued to grow and she had received very positive comments from new people about how welcome they felt and how friendly everyone was, which was a tribute to the U3A members. Currently membership stood at 818, although not all the 818 would renew their subscriptions, and the high number of newcomers, 75 since January, meant a lot of challenges for the Committee. The number of groups had also grown and diversified. Although four groups had closed during the year, twelve new ones had been started, which showed that the U3A was going from strength to strength and she expressed a huge thank you to everyone who was making this happen.

The Chair then advised the meeting that, with more and more members being comfortable using the internet, the Committee had agreed to update the website to bring it into the 21st century and that after much research they had appointed a local company to do the work. She said that the new website would offer options to pay subscriptions on-line, more accessible information and enhanced two-way contact with group leaders. She then thanked Ted House, the current Webmaster, for the sterling job he had done since the inception of the site.

The Chair continued that last year Committee members had formed closer links with Group Leaders as it was felt that asking a Vice-Chair to be responsible for 80+ groups was a difficult undertaking. Link Committee Members each had a responsibility for looking after a certain number of groups with the aim of providing closer communication between the Group Leaders and the Committee. This line of communication would continue to be developed and strengthened over the coming year.

The Chair then thanked Paul Giles, who had joined the 2015-16 Committee as Treasurer, and the Committee members for all their hard work; she added that a big thank you was also due to the "unsung" heroes - the Membership Secretary, the Admin Assistant, the Meet and Greet team, the catering team and the Group Leaders without whom the U3A could not function.

She added that a new development from the year was the organisation of a programme of Open Meetings, some in venues other than Pocklington, and that she hoped members would enjoy these, giving details of the ones being held in May and June.

4. Treasurer's report on the accounts for year ending 31st March 2016

The Treasurer, Paul Giles, presented the accounts for the year to 31st March 2016 (shown at the end of these minutes). He commented that, although the balance at 31st March 2016 (£8,255) appeared less than that at the same time in 2015 (£10,343), this was giving a false impression because of a number of factors. Firstly, the anticipated claim of Gift Aid for the two years to March 2016 had not yet been received and would amount to some £1,500. In addition, payments out had been made for the new website (£2,399) and for capitation for the 2015-16 year (£2,772) which had not been made in the preceding year's accounts. He added that he supported the motion to lower the subscription rate for 2017-18 as the trend was for the bank balance to steadily increase year on year although expenditure remained fairly static.

Acceptance of the accounts to 31st March 2016 was proposed by Ian Smith and seconded by Geoff Sidwell, with the majority present voting in favour by show of hands.

5. Motion to lower the subscription rate for 2017-18

The Chair informed the meeting that it was recommended to the members by the Committee that the subscription rate for 2017/2018 be reduced to £10.00. The reason for this was twofold - firstly because of the amount of capital held and secondly the continuing increase in membership. She added that it was felt that this reduction was justified given that there was no major expenditure in the pipeline and it was a benefit that could be passed on to all our members.

Acceptance of this motion was proposed by Terry Rogers and seconded by Paul Lee. By show of hands the majority of members present voted in favour, although eight members voted against the motion. The motion was therefore carried by the majority.

6. The appointment of an Examiner of the Accounts

The Chair thanked Terry Rogers, who had taken over as Examiner of the Accounts at the previous A.G.M., and said that the Committee recommended to the meeting that Terry Rogers be appointed as Examiner of the Accounts for the forthcoming year 2016-17.

This appointment was proposed by Steve Fraser, seconded by Liz Dearsly and approved by the majority with show of hands.

7. Election of President for the 2016-17 year

The Chair explained to the meeting that the position of President had been changed in the constitution adopted at the Extraordinary General Meeting held in February 2016 from an unlimited term of office to one that was elected annually. She said that Freda Snelson had been President since 2014 and as the founder member of our U3A had immeasurable experience in the running of such. The Chair continued that Freda's knowledge of the U3A movement both at local and national level was immense and she had been a valuable advisor to the Committee over the past year.

She then advised the members that the Committee recommended to them that Freda Snelson be elected as President for the 2016-17 year. This appointment was proposed by Richard Hawkins, seconded by Ian Tucker and approved by a majority show of hands.

8. Election of Officers for the 2016-17 year

The Chair explained to the meeting that, since the nominations for the 2016-17 Committee were received, the two nominees for the posts of Chairman and Vice Chairman had withdrawn their nominations for personal and family reasons. With the timeframe in which new nominations could be made closed, the organisation had to start the coming year without these two positions being filled.

The Chair informed the meeting that the Committee had met in April to discuss this situation and agree how best to proceed, saying that from the outset the Committee was adamant that the closure of the U3A was not an option and that other lines of action needed to be identified.

The Committee had agreed that the Link Committee Member roles could be expanded and one Committee member could be tasked with becoming overall coordinator regarding the working of the groups. They had also agreed that the role of the Chair could be carried out on a rotational basis until a more permanent solution was found.

The Chair continued that the changes to the Constitution approved earlier this year had made provision for additional Committee members and, with this, the Committee felt that the roles of both the Chair and Vice Chair could be absorbed, until such time as the positions were filled, without any detrimental effect on the running of the U3A.

The Chair then asked the meeting to agree to the new Committee being charged with identifying suitable persons during the year to take on the roles and duties of the Chair and Vice-Chair. This motion was proposed by Malcolm Smalley, seconded by Sara Giles and approved by a majority show of hands.

9. Election of Officers for the 2016-17 year

The Chair informed the meeting that nominations had been received for the following officers to serve for two years:

Secretary - Graham Gillyon

Proposed by Janet Styles, seconded Gerry Hutchinson, approved by majority show of hands.

Treasurer - Paul Giles

Proposed by Terry Rogers, seconded by Moira Laverack, approved by majority show of hands.

10. Election of four Committee Members to serve for two years

There were four vacancies for Committee Members and four nominations had been received. These were:

Eileen Ducker	Proposed by Pauline Carter	seconded by Bev Austin
Steve Fraser	Proposed by Freda Snelson	seconded by Frank Challoner
Ian Smith	Proposed by Joan Tunnicliffe	seconded by Vic Shadforth
Valerie Wosket	Proposed by Freda Snelson	seconded by Graham Gillyon

These appointments were approved by a majority show of hands.

11. Any Other Business

No motions for consideration under Any Other Business had been notified to the Secretary.

The President thanked the outgoing Chairman for all that she had done during the year, for her hard work and great enthusiasm, saying that most people had no idea of the demands that are made of the Chair. She continued that she hoped Pauline had found it a pleasurable task and that she looked forward to working with Pauline as the Past Chair in the coming year.

12. Date of next A.G.M. IN 2017

The Chair informed the meeting that the A.G.M. in 2017 will be held on Thursday 20th April.

13. Closure of the meeting

The Chair declared the A.G.M. closed at 2.20 p.m. and invited the members present to put forward any suggestions and ideas they would like the incoming Committee to consider.

The following were put forward:

- That the Committee looks at what should be considered a reasonable annual bank balance and how long the subscription should remain reduced to £10;
- That the U3A, as a privileged group, looks at doing something to connect with the community;
- That because of the high cost of magazine postage, the Committee looks at the possibility of members collecting magazines at drop-ins [the President responded that even when membership numbers were lower this had been an impossible task due to weight and that members simply did not collect the magazines];
- That the Committee looks at providing a suitable forum for members to express opinions and outline what they felt to the Committee (A.G.M. not being the right forum and no general meetings being held);
- That the new website allow members to post suggestions and a suggestions box be available at drop-ins.

The Chair then informed the members present that there would be a break for refreshments following which Judith Hibbert would entertain members with "Around the Wireless", a tribute to some of England's greatest variety stars.

R Carter
28/4/2016

Pocklington & District U3A

Accounts for Year Ended 31 March 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Balance at 1 st April 2015	10343	8571
Sources of Income		
Subscriptions	9768	9086
Gift Aid Tax Repayments	-	1078
ITY/Computer	60	-98
Sundry Receipts	3	22
	<u>9831</u>	<u>10088</u>
	<u>20174</u>	<u>18659</u>
Expenditure		
New and Replacement Equipment	558	1239
Capitation to 3 rd Age Trust	2772	-
Room Hire	450	293
Drop ins	825	554
Group Leaders' Conference	812	1037
Newsletter Production & Postage	495	434
Annual Individual Magazine	1390	1232
Postage	992	1258
Administration	120	60
Copyright Licence	120	121
Broadband Rental	375	130
Speakers	249	392
Membership Cards & Postage	350	-
Donations	2399	-
Cost of New Website	-	1566
10 th Anniversary Tree Planting	12	-
Miscellaneous	11919	8316
	<u>11919</u>	<u>8316</u>
	<u>8255</u>	<u>10343</u>
Balance at 31 March 2016	8255	10343