

AGM 2022 Minutes / Pocklington Methodist Church, 19th May 2022, 14:00

Introduction

It was established that the meeting had established Quorum and therefore met the Third Age Trust requirements for an AGM. As such it could legitimately continue.

The welcome address and opening of the AGM was conducted by the outgoing chairman, Mr Brian James. He thanked the officers and committee members for their efforts and commitments in keeping P&D u3a running over the past year and especially during his time of absence due to ill health.

1. Acceptance of Minutes

The minutes of the last AGM had been previously circulated to the membership. These were proposed by DH and seconded by JC for acceptance, which was passed.

2. Outgoing Chair's report

The past year has once again been an extremely difficult one for all of us. However, things are now slowly getting back to a more normal pattern – but Covid cases remain high and many of our members are still nervous about attending live group meetings.

In my Incoming Chair's remarks last year I set out some key objectives for our Committee:

1. To reconnect with those members who have not re-joined so far, and to continue to attract and welcome new members.
2. To encourage more members to "get involved", and volunteer to lead and not just attend our activities.
3. To support Group Leaders, the key people in Pocklington and District u3a.

I am pleased to be able to report that our membership is 648. At this time last year it was 550. However, 145 members have lapsed.

Since lockdown finished we have restarted the Thursday Drop-ins, and while numbers attending are lower than before, they are proving popular and are a focus for promoting our u3a to potential new members. New promotional literature has been purchased from the Third Age Trust, and this has been used to promote our u3a in April at two live events organised by the East Riding Council – "What's On in Market Weighton" and "What's On in Pocklington". At both events the Committee took the opportunity to talk to non-members about u3a. Recruitment of new members is an important element of any u3a, and brings many benefits including fresh ideas and potentially broadening our subject offering to members.

I am also pleased to report that our Facebook page has been developed by John Senior and is now live.

With regard to the second objective, to encourage more members to “get involved”, the Committee has been in regular contact with Group Leaders to determine whether each Group is full or has vacancies. The response from Group Leaders was very detailed, and is used at drop-ins to help with the recruitment of new members. At the start of May there were 74 groups listed on our website, which is a real plus for our u3a. Sadly, as has been the case before lockdown, a number of groups are full, and new members are disappointed that they are unable to join a group of particular interest to them. Potential ways of addressing this issue have been discussed and will be promoted over the next year.

As regards the third objective, a Group Leaders’ Meeting was held where post-Covid concerns and experiences of operating groups could be shared. A new updated Group Leaders’ Handbook was issued. Each Group Leader now has a formal link to a named Committee member who is available to advise and bring concerns to the Committee for discussion.

Finally, I must pay tribute to your Committee. We are very fortunate that amongst our membership there are people of different backgrounds and experiences who are willing to devote a little of their precious retirement to help us operate. Unfortunately in October I was rushed into hospital for emergency major abdominal surgery. This has prevented me from attending Committee Meetings and Drop-Ins, but the Committee members have responded admirably, and I would like to express my sincere thanks to them, and especially my Vice-Chair, John Senior, for all their efforts on your behalf.

There are still challenges ahead as we learn to live a new normal with Covid, but we have made significant progress over the last year. As we move forward, let us remember that after a dark night there is always a new dawn, a new day, and new opportunities to explore as we come together

TO LEARN, LAUGH AND LIVE.

3.

The 2021/2022 accounts were presented by David Hebden, Treasurer. A detailed copy of the accounts is included as an attachment to the minutes. An error on the summary page was identified and corrected. It was noted that;

1. Gift Aid has not yet been sorted and/or claimed back from the Inland Revenue
2. The forecast for 2022/2023 financial year is that there will be approx. £4,000 spend on “Drop Ins”, new equipment and others.
3. Banking is currently with Nat West and works well. There were no advantages in changing to any other bank.

The accounts were proposed by PS and seconded by HM for acceptance, and were agreed.

4.

Mr Alan Murphy (Retired Chartered Accountant) was nominated as the examiner of accounts for the past year. This was proposed by RW and seconded by ML and was passed

5.

The officers for the forthcoming year were nominated as;

- Chairman: John Senior (New)
- Vice Chairman: Neil Barrett (New)
- Treasurer: David Hebden (Continuing)
- Membership Secretary: Moira Laverack (Continuing)
- Secretary: Rosemary Waugh (Continuing)

These were proposed en bloc by CM and seconded by PS, and duly appointed

Agenda 6

The following new Committee Members (to serve for two years) were nominated.

- Lynn Liddle
- Liz Storer
- Gerry Hutchinson

These were proposed by JS and seconded by RW, and duly elected.

Appreciation and thanks were given to Liz Dearsly and Rosemary Hutchinson who are leaving the committee.

Agenda 7

John Senior addressed the audience with his incoming chairman's speech:

A long time ago in a County far, far away, u3a Grand Master Brian James took on a young u3a apprentice called John Senior. His objective to train and prepare his young apprentice to harness the powers of the force for the good of the u3a and to resist the temptation and powers of the dark side. All was going well until in late September of 2021 when we were all shocked to learn of Brian's sudden rush to hospital for emergency surgery. During his long recuperation Brian has remained in touch and supportive of all of us. It is now good to see him back amongst us and we look forward to his continued involvement.

As Brian has already informed, our membership is once again healthy. This is by a combination of existing member renewals and an ever-increasing number of new members finding out about us and wanting to join. This is very refreshing.

Of course we all still have our concerns with COVID but we are now feeling both confident and aware of the need to move on.

Today, a war in Europe and a struggling economy and increased cost of living are giving us new and grave concerns. A flashback to times most of us thought we would never see again. But it is in these times that the community of u3a becomes even more important and gives us the opportunity to support each other in our daily lives. Especially those less fortunate than ourselves.

So, we once again have a well-established membership with a solid financial backing. We also have a large and very diverse number of interest groups that our members enjoy. But in the last semester has been difficult to keep some of these groups running. It is unfortunately the nature of the beast that our group leaders at some time become unable to carry on for a variety of reasons such as ill health, family issues etc. I want to place emphasis this year on making sure all our groups have a succession path before the inevitable happens. Be it with an agreed deputy willing to take over the leadership as and when required, or even shared responsibility from within to run the group. The committee are taking this on as a priority task for 2022/2023, and will be discussing with all group leaders.

Another development in 2021/2022 has been our continued integration with other local u3a such as Beverley, Howden, Driffield, Cottingham, Caves etc in an organisation called ACORD. This allows members from other u3a's to attend each other's group meeting, if vacancies exist that is. It broadens our horizons and allows us to share best practices. The chairmen of ACCORD u3a's meet every 3 months to continue and build on the process.

Recently we have also started building on a new relationship with East Yorkshire council to see how we can support each other. We have found out we could have free access to loan bicycles in Pocklington, meeting support equipment in Driffield and many other possibilities. We will report more on this throughout the year.

You will also have seen that we have a new branding for Pocklington and District u3a. Our new logo is in my opinion more modern and refreshing and was developed by one of our members.

Lastly, A warm welcome to Neil Barrett as new vice-chairman and to new committee members, Liz Storer, Lynn Liddle and Gerry Hutchinson. I would also like to give a personal thank you to our webmaster Chris Smith, secretary Rosemary Waugh and Betty and Isobel for keeping us topped up with tea, coffee and biscuits at the drop-ins. Where would we be without them?

Thank you.

Agenda 8.

John presented Graham Ball as our new President. This is an honorary, non-executive position elected by the committee. Graham, a past Chair, has a long-standing successful involvement with our u3a and his experience will be much appreciated by the committee.

Agenda 9

No resolutions had been submitted by the membership prior to the AGM. None were submitted at the AGM. Some miscellaneous questions from the floor were fielded. There was nothing controversial or effecting any decisions made.

Agenda 10

The date of the next AGM was set for 25th May 2023.

The meeting was declared closed at 14:50 after which refreshments were enjoyed

Pocklington & District U3A
Income & Expenditure Account

Year Ended 31 March 2022

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Balance as at 1 April	8662.24	6705.27
Income		
Floats		
Subscriptions	6482.65	6878.24
Gift Aid	0.00	1080.53
Sundry Receipts	<u>165.00</u>	<u>157.00</u>
	15309.89	8115.77
Expenditure		
New & Replacement Equipment	994.75	0.00
Capitation to 3 rd Age Trust	2397.50	3132.50
3 rd Age Trust Magazine Postage	1462.58	2123.48
Beacon	387.90	0.00
Travel	0.00	0.00
Data Protection	0.00	0.00
Hall Hire	587.32	150.00
Drop Ins & AGM	156.03	0.00
Refreshments	84.74	0.00
Group Leader Conf	136.50	0.00
Postage	296.28	0.00
Printing Stationery & Postages	1089.21	534.01
Licences	0.00	0.00
Broadband & Wi-Fi Costs	0.00	0.00
Speakers	0.00	0.00
Donations & Gratuities	0.00	200.00
Sundry Payments	243.67	14.39
Equipment Repairs	0.00	0.00
Returned to Groups	<u>238.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	8074.48	6154.38
Card Payment Charges	<u>58.87</u>	<u>4.42</u>
	<u>7176.54</u>	<u>6158.80</u>
Balance as at 31 March 2022	<u>7176.54</u>	<u>8662.24</u>