

POCKLINGTON & DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of the ninth Annual General Meeting

held at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 10th April 2014 at Pocklington Methodist Church

1. Welcome by the Chairman

Paul Lee, the Chairman for 2013-14, welcomed members to the 9th Annual General Meeting of Pocklington & District U3A, commenting that it was pleasing to see so many members present against the competing attractions of warm sunshine and the opening of the new John Lewis Store at Monks Cross. He then introduced the agenda which was displayed on the screen and which had been emailed to members along with the minutes of the 2013 A.G.M.

2. Apologies for absence

The Secretary read out written apologies that had been received from John and Una Barber, Anne Bedlington, Ian and Mandy Brisco, Pauline Chisholm, Ann Dale, Rosalind Gladstone, Don Harper, Dorothy Nott, David Porter, Ann and Malcolm Smalley, Mary and Ralph Smith, Rachael Stoneham, Linda Tremayne and Joyce Turnough.

3. Minutes of the 8th A.G.M. held on 18th April 2013

The acceptance of the minutes of the previous A.G.M. was proposed by Ro King and seconded by David Jamieson. There being no objections from the floor, this was deemed to be carried unanimously. There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report on the 2013-2014 year

The retiring Chairman reported that there were currently 765 members, although 171 had still not renewed their subscription. He then displayed a chart of the increasing membership from the inception and suggested that numbers could reach 1,000 by 2017 if the same growth rate was maintained. The gender split was 27% male, 73% female.

The next chart showed the geographical distribution of membership, 50% being in Pocklington and 50% being spread throughout the surrounding towns and villages, with members coming from as far away as Hull, Howden and Grimsby.

The retiring Chairman then went on to talk about the different activity groups, in that at 71 there were now three more than at the end of the preceding year. Five had been lost for various reasons during the year but eight new groups had been started.

He referred the meeting to the ethos of the U3A which was the continuing education of people in retirement or semi-retirement and encouraging physical activities - healthy minds but also healthy bodies. The next chart showed the analysis of groups by type - educational, physical and recreational - where the educational focus accounted for about 50%. This changed, however, when applied to the analysis of group members which revealed that the greater percentage of engagement was in recreational activities. Generally, educational groups tended to have smaller numbers of members often meeting in houses, whereas the recreational groups accommodated larger numbers.

Paul then said that he had had a super year as the Chairman and expressed his grateful thanks to:

- Group leaders, at the top of the list, as they are the driving force, the engine room of a U3A and the power that makes the U3A interesting and vibrant.
- Ted House, the webmaster, for his patience and assistance.
- Bev Austin and her helpers, Cathy, Josie, Isabelle and the two Mikes, for providing the refreshments at each and every occasion.

- The Secretary, Treasurer and current committee members for being so diverse, interesting, engaging and challenging – he said the committee really works.
- Retiring committee members Angela, Julian and Freda, for all their hard work.
- Special thanks to Steve Fraser, the Vice-Chairman, who had handled the most difficult job on the committee with total commitment making his role as Chairman easier.
- Finally to all U3A members, saying that it had been so nice to meet all these different people.

5. Treasurer's report on the accounts for year ending 31st March 2014

The Treasurer, Inger Hawkins, presented the accounts for the year to 31st March 2014, displaying these on the screen (shown at the end of these minutes). She commented that £5,000 had been earmarked for the replacement of IT equipment but careful purchasing had meant that only £3,962 had actually been spent; capitation fees had accounted for £2,544.50 and postage for the national magazine to £1,153.66. Gift Aid had been received in the sum of £730.

She continued that the final balances were similar to the preceding year and in a healthy position, with the Gift Aid claim to March 2013 still to be received as this had been delayed by the need for the completion of new forms.

For the 2014-15 year, the purchase of a new public address system was planned and the free tea/coffee at drop-ins was scheduled to continue whilst the balances remained good.

6. Subscription Rate for year 2014/2015

It was recommended by the Committee that the subscription rate for 2014/2015 remain at the same level as last year, £12.00. Acceptance of this was proposed by both Inger Hawkins and Stan Thornton and seconded by Jan Mitchell. There being no objections from the floor, this was deemed to be carried unanimously.

7. The appointment of an examiner of the accounts

It was recommended by the committee that, as the overall turnover still falls just below the ceiling at which an external examiner must be brought in, Brian Snelson be appointed as the examiner of the accounts for the year ended 31st March 2014. This was proposed by Gordon Clarke and seconded by Dianne Lee. There being no objections from the floor, this was deemed to be carried unanimously.

8. Addition of a clause to the constitution under Section 5 Membership, enabling the committee to create Life Members

The Chairman explained that the former President, Eleanor Scott, had been prevented from pursuing U3A activities due to increasing ill-health and that the committee had recommended that in recognition of her singular contribution to Pocklington & District U3A she be made a Life Member. This required an amendment to the constitution, the wording of which had been circulated with the notice of the A.G.M., and this required two-thirds of the members present to agree. The approval of this amendment was proposed by Ro King, seconded by Ian Tucker and carried by an overwhelming majority.

The following is therefore added to the constitution:

5 v) A Life Membership (free of subscription) is to be awarded to any individual who has made a significant contribution to the development of Pocklington & District U3A in the circumstance that ill health prevents them playing any further role in U3A. Appointments as Life Members are at the absolute discretion of the Committee.

9. Election of Chairman for the 2014-15 year and hand over from retiring Chairman

The nominee for the post of Chairman was Steve Fraser, proposed by Rosemary King, seconded by Ian Tucker, also proposed by Dulcie Porter, seconded by Trish Cairn. This appointment was carried by an overwhelming majority.

Steve Fraser thanked the retiring Chairman whom she said had taken on the role of Vice-Chairman when he was very new to the U3A and quickly worked into the role, supporting new groups, organising the newsletter and the group leaders' event. As Chairman he had worked tirelessly to keep the U3A running smoothly.

10. Election of Officers for the 2014-15 year

Nominations had been received for the following officers:

Vice-Chairman Pauline Carter
Proposed by Steve Fraser, seconded by Paul Lee

Secretary Janet Styles
Proposed by Brian Snelson, seconded by Pauline Carter, also proposed by Malcolm Fairbairn, seconded by P.E. Carter

Treasurer Inger Hawkins
Proposed by Janet Styles, seconded by Paul Lee

There being no objections from the floor, these appointments were deemed to be carried unanimously.

11. Election of four Committee Members to serve for three years

There were four vacancies for committee members and four nominations had been received:

Bev Austin - Proposed by Angela Lakin, seconded by P.E. Carter

Gordon Clarke - Proposed by Paul Lee, seconded by Dianne Lee

Brian James - Proposed by Paul Lee, seconded by Stephanie Fraser

Richard Wade - Proposed by Freda Snelson, seconded by Stephanie Fraser

There being no objections from the floor, these appointments were deemed to be carried unanimously and the new committee members were introduced to the meeting.

12. Election of President for the organisation

The new Chairman advised the meeting that, following the resignation of Eleanor Scott from the position of President in 2012, no appointment had been made immediately. She then said that the committee now felt that a new President should be appointed and that the person they recommended to the membership was Freda Snelson, without whom our U3A would not be here today. Freda had been proposed by Paul Lee and seconded by Stephanie Fraser and also proposed by Rosemary King and seconded by Ian Tucker. This appointment was carried by an overwhelming majority.

13. New Chairman's address

The new Chairman commenced by saying that "Self help" and "Co-operative" are two words constantly repeated in relation to U3A; with our growth, we need to look at how we can help ourselves and be equal parts of this co-operative. She reminded members that they have a responsibility to keep themselves up-to-date through looking at emails, attending drop-ins and checking the website.

Steve continued that our ever increasing numbers give cause for both excitement and concern, especially in the area of finding more group leaders and helpers. Support is readily available both from the committee and the national resource centre and opening new groups is the only

way we can maintain our U3A. She implored members to think if there was any way they could personally contribute and help to keep this vibrant and active U3A going.

14. Date of next A.G.M. IN 2015

This was arranged for Thursday 23rd April 2015.

15. Any other business

No other business had been notified to the Secretary.

16. Closure of the meeting

The Chair informed the members present that there would be a break for refreshments and then Mr. John Cox would give a very interesting and amusing talk about "His Life and Times".

The annual general meeting closed at 2.35 p.m.

Pocklington & District U3A			
<u>2012-2013</u>			
£7,562.54		Balance at 1st April 2013	£9,454.89
	Income		
£7,647.50	Subscriptions		£9,228.00
£277.30	IT Tuition balance		£533.00
£1,637.45	Tea/Coffee Sales		£577.04
£984.04	Gift Aid Tax repayment		£0.00
	Bank Interest		£195.00
£10,546.29		Total Income	£10,533.04
	Expenditure		
£1,933.31	New and Replacement Equipment		£3,962.60
£2,355.50	Capitation to Third Age Trust		£2,544.50
£958.50	Room Hire		£614.75
£837.88	Group Leaders Conference		£691.47
£511.57	Newsletter Production & Postage		£380.00
£776.00	Annual Individual Magazine Postage		£1,153.66
955.05	Administration		£1,276.04
60	Copyright Licence		£60.00
£16.75	Website fee		£0.00
£122.38	Broadband Rental		£126.13
£127.00	Speakers Expenses / Charity		£203.44
	Membership Cards and postage		£479.60
	Unsold diaries		£60.10
	Miscellaneous expenses		£37.49
£8,653.94		Total Expenditure	£11,589.78
£1,892.35		Reduction in reserves	-£1,056.74
£9,454.89		Balance at 31 March 2014	£8,398.15