

POCKLINGTON & DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual General Meeting

Held at 2.00 p.m. on Thursday 18th April 2019 at Pocklington Methodist Church

Welcome by the Chair

The Chairman for 2018-19, Brian James, thanked the Ukulele Group for entertaining the audience so well in a lively warm-up before the start of the meeting. The Chairman welcomed members to the 14th Annual General Meeting of Pocklington & District U3A. He was pleased to report that the number of attendees exceeded the quorum figure required for the meeting to go ahead (There were 101 members in attendance).

1. Apologies for absence

The Chair stated that 10 apologies had been received – these being: Mr & Mrs. Gillyon, Mr & Mrs Minion, V Hawkins, G Ball, V Wosket, R Smith, M Stubbs and J Tinkler

2. Minutes of the 13th A.G.M. held on 19th April 2018

The Chairman asked the meeting to approve the minutes of the previous A.G.M. The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by Brian Ward seconded by Sara Giles and approved by those present with a show of hands. There were no matters arising.

3. Chairman's report on the 2018-19 year presented by Brian James

Our U3A continues to grow from strength to strength. I am pleased to report that the past year has again broken all records in membership, and we are on course to reach 900 members in the coming year. We have again benefitted by having almost a full committee, and I am delighted that Ron Tinkler agreed to join as Secretary.

Sadly, a number of our committee members will not be with us next year. Pauline Carter leaves the committee after six years, during which she has served as vice-chairman, chairman, and past chairman. Graham Gillyon and Ian Smith have also decided to step down from the committee, but I am delighted that Graham will continue to assist in managing the website, and Ian will be visible and active at drop-ins. I would like to thank them and all the committee for the support and dedication they have selflessly given to make our U3A such a thriving and enjoyable organisation.

Of course the year has presented challenges – new housing estates are mushrooming in Pocklington, Market Weighton and Stamford Bridge, and as a result we can expect our membership to continue to grow as new members want to share the enjoyment, opportunities, and Yorkshire welcome that make our organisation stand out.

Much of the credit for this must go to the group leaders, who continue to work so hard to provide stimulating, lively, and interesting programmes for their members. I would also like to especially thank the team of volunteers who assist at drop-ins: the catering team, which serves over 150 cups of coffee at each drop-in; the meet and greet team; the new member team; the webmasters; and the membership secretary. I find it so gratifying that members are prepared to step forward to help out. U3A is a self-help organisation, and without the help of our volunteers we would be unable to function. So a big thank you to everyone.

As we move forward, I must talk about the importance of our new website, which over the past year has been refined, with more content added and updated on an almost daily basis. It really is an extremely valuable asset, and I encourage you all to make it your first port of call for U3A matters. The running of the website is time-consuming, and I must especially thank Chris Smith, Graham Gillyon, Moira Laverack, and Ron Tinkler for all the time and effort they have put in, and continue to put in on our behalf.

I mentioned the challenge of increasing membership numbers. Clearly we want new members to enjoy our U3A as much as the “old hands” do. We have recognised that some groups cannot accommodate more members for various reasons. Others have been able to move to bigger venues to accommodate more members. The committee has therefore asked group leaders if their groups are full (and if so, do they have a waiting list); if not, how many more members can they accommodate. We plan to update this information on a regular basis. When a group is full, we intend to ask all members whether they would be interested in forming a second group that will run independently from the first group. If there is interest, we will move this forward, just as we would with an entirely new subject group. Hopefully this will enable us to assimilate new (and existing) members into groups.

The Third Age Trust has encouraged local U3As to promote their activities in the local community. We took a table at the “What’s on in Market Weighton” open day, and spoke to 75 people about U3A during the day. A number have since joined us.

There is also an East Riding Council initiative, “Community in Action”, which addresses what goes on in Pocklington and surrounding villages, and what additional services or groups could enhance this. We are active participants in this, and through this group have become aware of the “Social Prescribing Initiative” in Pocklington and Market Weighton GP surgeries. The U3A Trust is encouraging all U3As to get involved with Social Prescribing initiatives, which aim to assist people who feel socially excluded as a result of bereavement, divorce, or traumatic events in their lives, to reconnect with the local community. These are early days, but we are in contact with the local GP coordinator, and have provided booklets on the U3A movement to use as needed. Our monthly drop-ins provide an ideal opportunity for people who are referred through this programme to meet in a friendly and non-challenging environment.

Finally, we have three new members joining the committee, and I am pleased to report that Steve Fraser has accepted the Committee’s offer to continue to serve as President for 2019–20. The year ahead will have challenges, but also will provide real opportunities to expand our activities and enjoy life! We always need more support - let’s all work together to make 2019–20 an even more successful and enjoyable year.

4. Treasurer’s report on the accounts for year ending 31st March 2019

The Treasurer, Paul Giles, presented the accounts for the year to 31st March 2019. These have been approved by the Examiner of Accounts, Gerry Hutchinson and found to be in order. His “Audit Statement” along with a copy of the 2018/19 Accounts are attached to these Minutes.

The Treasurer reviewed the accounts item by item explaining significant areas of expenditure or where there had been a significant change from the previous 2017/18 financial year. He made specific reference to Equipment that had been purchased in 2018/19 and the increase in stationery/postage costs. Most significantly for the Treasurer were costs associated with Data Protection and he advised that these were likely to continue but the Committee believed it was vital to have professional guidance and support on this matter to maintain indi-

vidual member records privacy and system security overall approval of the accounts to 31st March 2019 had been proposed by Eileen Ducker, seconded by Chris Mills and approved by those present with a show of hands.

5. Motion to retain the subscription rate at £10 for 2020-21

Due to the amount of capital held and the continuing increase in membership and constitutional position relating to “profit” the Treasurer suggested that the subscription rate for 2020/21 remains the same as current 2019/20 year.

This rate is £10 but that this may need to be reviewed during the 20/21 year and certainly for the following 21/22 year in light of increasing costs associated with Data Protection and Security. Any review of the rate for 2020/21 would be brought back to the membership.

He advised the meeting that he had recently received an invoice for 2019/20 costs in this area of Data Security and Disaster Recovery which was unexpectedly high and was therefore under review and investigation.

He reminded the meeting that the subscription rate of £10 in place for 2019/20 included now £3.50 per head to TAT, and that this level of £10 for members subscription had been in place for 3 years.

It was the rate for 2020/21 that required approval to remain at £10

Approval of the motion had been proposed by Ron Tinkler, seconded by Chris Smith and was approved unanimously by those present with a show of hands.

6. The appointment of an Examiner of the Accounts

The appointment of Gerry Hutchinson as Examiner of Accounts for 2019-20 was approved by show of hands.

7a. Election of Steve Fraser as President for the forthcoming year

The Chairman explained that the invitation to take on the role of President is in the gift of the Committee who unanimously agreed to invite Steve Fraser to continue as President for the forthcoming year. Steve has accepted the invitation.

7b. Election of Officers

The Chairman proposed the appointment of the following officers and new committee members: As he had mentioned earlier, there are 3 Committee Members standing down and an existing vacancy on the Committee making a total of 4 opportunities for new Committee Members for 2019/20.

As we have had nominations from only 3 members, 1 for the post of Vice Chair and 2 for positions as Committee Members there is no requirement for any elections based on secret ballot, but in accordance with our Constitution, new appointments can be confirmed by a show of hands at today's AGM. Appointment to Officer roles which become vacant for 2019/20 fall into the same category with only 1 nomination for all Officer roles that have become vacant for 2019/20.

There was a single nomination for the Officer post of Chair. Chris Mills was proposed by Val Wosket and seconded by Brian James. This was approved by a show of hands.

There was a single nomination for the Officer post of Vice Chair 2019/20. Sue Final was proposed by Freda Snelson and seconded by Hilary Gaynor. This was approved by a show of hands.

The Officer post of Secretary has for most of 2018/19 year been filled by Ron Tinkler who was co-opted into the role. He has indicated that he wishes to continue in 2019/20 and has been proposed by Martin Bradley and seconded by Peter Ellenger. This was approved by a show of hands.

A new nomination to the Committee is David Stone, proposed by Margaret James and seconded by Brian James. This was approved by a show of hands.

A new nomination to the Committee is Liz Dearsly, proposed by J A Mead and seconded by F H Back. This was approved by a show of hands.

The Chair commented that it was now time for him to stand down and take up the role of Past Chair for 2019/20 but his final responsibility before passing things over to Chris Mills our new Chair is to thank once again Ian Smith and Graham Gillyon for their service as they have decided to step down from Committee duties and particularly to thank Pauline Carter who having served for 6 years must now constitutionally stand down. The Committee presented Pauline with a bouquet of flowers. So on behalf of the Membership the Chair thanked her for all her efforts and achievements and wished her continued success.

Finally Brian confirmed the passing of the role of Chair Pocklington & District U3A to Chris Mills.

At this point the incoming Chairman, Chris Mills, thanked the outgoing Chairman, Brian James, for his leadership of the Committee during the past year and took chairmanship of the meeting.

8. New Chairman Report

The new Chair reminded the AGM that Brian James had been five years on the committee, a member of many groups, Group Leader for the very successful Films Group, and after time as Vice Chair and Chair now takes up the post of Past Chair. He asked all present to join him in acknowledging Brian's time with U3A and the incredible contribution he had made along with his wife Margaret.

Chris commented that it felt like Brian has passed the baton on to him. He commented that when you think of that phrase 'passing the baton' what does it evoke? Relay racing and competition. None of which relates to U3A. However, teamwork is a critical component.

In U3A teamwork and in this case being on the U3A committee is very relevant. We have 4 office holders and ten members. What do we do? To answer that he suggested to imagine Pocklington and District U3A as a pyramid and when you look at a pyramid you think the Chairman is at the top with management. In our case, it is different we invert the pyramid. Our members and potential members are at the top of the pyramid. As Chairman with committee we are the bottom. Our job is to support our members.

The committee role is to support the members so that they enjoy the benefits of the groups and activities and develop friendships.

As more people come to live in the area, we are encouraged to find our membership growing. This comes with the occasional challenge of group capacity and new members wanting to join groups which are full. Naturally, the committee cannot wave a magic wand and new groups just appear. We must remember that U3A is "self-help" in nature, meaning this requires the willingness of members to take on the co-ordination of new groups so that our U3A continues to develop and flourish.

The success of U3A is up to all our members, we are not recipients but volunteers and should participate where possible.

Please support your U3A by:

- Sharing your ideas with us by email or have a chat at the monthly Drop-In where there is also a suggestion box
- Offer to help in aspects of our U3A so that we can expand the number of groups and subjects and activities.

And finally, to finish I wanted to share a snippet of homely wisdom
'You don't stop because you get older, you get older because you stop'
U3A helps you feel younger-so don't stop!
Embrace fun & friendship and learn with our U3A

9. Any Other Business

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

There was one question/observation from the floor on the day from Rosemary King.

Rosemary expressed concern that it appeared to her as though the U3A was moving away from its original concept of being an Educational/Learning and Social Contact Group and was being asked to become more like a secondary Care Group providing at times quasi-medical support to individuals with some type of mental health issues. Clearly Group Leaders and Members were not qualified or confident to carry out any such role. It was not an acceptable situation and she did not want to see our U3A becoming almost part of social services. She wanted to hear the view of the committee.

New Chair, Chris Mills responded. He thanked Rosemary for her question/observation. He fully understood the points being raised and had some considerable sympathy with them. While the U3A had to be open to all who met the "criteria" to join he recognized that we should not be going down a road of providing alternative medical or care support. Social contact and companionship was what we could offer and nothing really beyond that. Even there he recognized the difficulties particularly for Group Leaders with individuals who could have some social or relationship issues themselves. It was a difficult balance to maintain. He mentioned that he had contact with other U3A groups in Yorkshire and that this was a developing issue in many locations. Most recent figures suggested that 3 out of every 5 people referred to Medical Centres with mental health issues required no medical intervention but benefited from being out in the community rather than in isolation or exclusion. This is potentially where we could help but nothing beyond this was within our remit. Indeed to meddle unqualified in such issues could potentially make things worse. He reminded the meeting that the committee was always available to help.

10. Date of next Annual General Meeting in 2020

The Chairman informed the meeting that the A.G.M. in 2020 has been booked for **Thursday 14th May**

A suggestion was put forward but too late to alter documentation for this meeting that the original proposed date of 23rd April falls too close to Easter which makes it difficult in relation to holiday arrangements and makes the production of signed off accounts very challenging so the new date of Thursday 14th May would be a better time to hold the AGM.

Steve Fraser 18th April 2019

Chris Mills 18th April 2019

Pocklington & District U3A
Income & Expenditure Account
Year Ended 31 March 2019

	<u>2019</u>		<u>2018</u>
Balance as at 1 April 2018	6444		8750
Sources of Income			
Subscriptions	8670		8548
Gift Aid	1020		1191
Sundry Receipts	<u>0</u>	<u>9690</u>	<u>0</u>
			9739
		<u>16134</u>	<u>18489</u>
Expenditure			
New & Replacement Equipment	657		1824
Capitation to 3rd Age Trust	2993		3000
Website Retainer	0		1440
Data Protection	1650		0
Room Hire & Open Meetings	214		468
Drop ins & AGM	669		659
Refreshments	668		579
Group Leaders Conference	330		297
Handbooks	195		477
3rd Age Trust Magazine Postage	1629		1577
Printing Stationery & Postages	1084		871
Licences	132		122
Broadband & Wi-Fi Costs	98		80
Speakers	125		355
Donations & Gratuities	190		90
Sundry Payments	61		48
Stripe Credit Card Charges	3		0
Equipment Repairs	<u>37</u>	<u>10625</u>	<u>158</u>
			12045
Balance as at 31 March 2019	<u>6509</u>		<u>6444</u>

Audit of Pocklington and District U3A Accounts 2018-2019

I would like to thank in particular Paul Giles, our Treasurer, as well as Moira Laverack our Membership Secretary for the hard work they continue to put into the smooth running of our society. It is an immensely demanding voluntary job that they do.

To the best of my ability, I have reviewed the accounts passed to me by Paul. In my view and the summary provides an accurate representation of the Pocklington and District U3A financial position.



Gerry Hutchinson
 14/4/19