

Grange & District U3A

Minutes of the Grange & District Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2023

Held at the Victoria Hall 18 April 2023

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| Present | |
| The meeting commenced at 10:15 with 66 members present. | |
| 1 | Chairman's welcome The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting. |
| 2 | Apologies A total of 10 apologies had been received. These were from: Judith Booth Ray Booth Liz Jackson Michael Jackson Jean Robinson Roy Robinson Paul Salveson Sarah Shepherd Richard Shepherd Jan Tomlinson |
| 3 | Minutes of the 2021 AGM The minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the 2022 AGM. |
| 4 | Matters Arising All Matters Arising had been resolved prior to the 2023 AGM. |
| 5 | Chairman's report Good morning and welcome to the year's AGM. Firstly, a thank you from me to YOU for coming to this necessary event. I say necessary and important because this is your opportunity to influence and make your voices heard. Our u3a would not be able to function without an Elected Committee to guide it but this is your Committee. Our Constitution provides for a maximum two-year term for your Chair and my time is now up. The last two years have, in many ways, gone quickly and you have given me a fairly calm passage. I have seen us move from the very restricted days of the pandemic, when we had to resort to new technology via Zoom, capped numbers and social distancing, through to the more normal times of 2023. However, the good news is that our u3a has recovered and both our Membership and our Groups are healthy. When I was elected to this role I said that one of my objectives was to try to get the membership up to 500 plus and on checking the Beacon database of current members I was delighted to see our total has reached 520. I feel that this is a credit to our Groups who work hard to retain and recruit members. Incidentally we now have 47 active groups. This includes 2 new groups this year Bible Quest and Rummikub. I thank Julie and Dorothy for setting up these diverse activities. A lesson, I think that if you have an idea and wish to start a group you can, and get support and advice from the committee if needed. The strength of our groups was highlighted last month at our Enrolment event where groups were able to show off and actively recruit from existing and potential members. My thanks to all of our Group Leaders and Coordinators. Another interesting figure from the membership statistics is that 95% of you are now using email, which makes the job of communicating with you so much easier. |

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| | <p>The core event is our Monthly Meetings whereby our members can enjoy socialising, listen to a speaker and have refreshments. These take place on the third Tuesday 10 months of the year. My thanks to Christine our new Speaker Finder, who already this year has “found” excellent speakers. Our own John Parker talking about place names and his time with the Ordnance Survey and a fascinating (and scary) talk on Fraud by a Detective Inspector from Cumbria Constabulary. All this used to be £1, but now like most things this has had to go up to £2. Still amazing value I think and hope that you agree. The programmes for May and June look especially interesting and I hope that you will support them.</p> <p>All this information regarding what Grange and District u3a does is in our Quarterly Newsletter. A “must read” to keep up to date. My thanks to Erline our long serving editor and Andrew and his team off distributors. I must stress that the success of our Newsletter depends on contributions.</p> <p>Some good news is that your Committee has been able to maintain our annual subscription at £12 or as I like to say “only £1 per month”. Speaking of the committee I would like to thank them for all their work over the past 2 years in guiding our u3a and for their support during my term.</p> <p>As I stand down as your Chairman and a new team is elected I am conscious of the fact that we can only function if members volunteer. The u3a is not a service organisation where you pay your money and sit back. We depend wholly on volunteers. Groups need leaders and they need deputies. Newsletters need contributors and delivering, refreshments need making and serving, tables and chairs need setting up for meetings, and most of all your Committee needs members to be able to operate. All our volunteers are very much appreciated.</p> <p>Trust me – participation is fun.</p> <p>Thank you Brian Loader 18/4/2023</p> |
| 6 | <p>Treasurer’s report</p> <p>Our Community Account is very healthy sitting at just under £12,800 This is mainly due to the large number of members paying their 2023/2024 subscriptions at the tail end of the 2022 Financial year. 92 members have still to renew, coincidentally only a few more than at last year’s AGM.</p> <p>As attendance at the monthly meetings have yet to return to pre-pandemic figures and the rising costs of hiring the Victoria Hall, the Committee discussed and agreed that the £1 entrance fee should be raised to £2 to help defray the monthly outgoings. However, raising the yearly subscription was not considered necessary. As stated last year we had reduced costs of the Newsletter by changing to an on-line printing company. However due to the Energy crisis and inflation we have seen a substantial increase in printing costs. But still less than we were previously paying.</p> <p>I am in the process of finalizing our Gift Aid application (2020 FY through 2022 FY) and hopefully within the next few months we should see a sum in excess of £2500 from HMRC to add to our coffers.</p> <p>Membership Subscription to The Third Age Trust is paid on the previous year’s member numbers. As of 1st March, we had 399 paid up members and it is charged at £4.00 per member we had an invoice for £1596, this has been paid, numbers have since risen to 516. A lower charge, £1 per member, is due imminently for the Administration System Beacon.</p> <p>Our Holding Account, sitting at just over £2150, is used for trips by the Out and About, Local Explorers and other Group Activities. These events are expected to break even, we are not attempting to make a profit. All the event organisers have worked hard to achieve this and give you a great experience. There are presently trips being organised to Harrogate & Nottingham. Some groups have received funding from the Community account to purchase new equipment. The Holding</p> |

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| | <p>account has approximately £880 in “Ringfenced” funds for many groups including Whist, Table Tennis, Out & About, Pickleball & Film Buffs.</p> <p>Overall, our Finances are in an excellent state and we have sufficient funds to allow us to carry on supporting our membership in the future.</p> |
| 7 | <p>Appointment of Honorary Auditor</p> <p>Dr Tony Harrison is willing to continue as the Honorary Auditor for another year but will then step down.</p> |
| 8 | <p>Elections to the Executive Committee</p> <p>There were vacancies for Chairman Vice-Chairman Treasurer 4 members of the Executive Committee</p> <p>Only one nominee was received for each vacancy so the following were elected unopposed.</p> <p>Chairman Nominee Hilary Wade Proposer Patricia Thomas Seconder Christine Patrick</p> <p>Vice-Chairman Nominee Mick Love Proposer Julia Nicholson Seconder John Eakins</p> <p>Honorary Treasurer Nominee Michael McCormick Proposer John Eakins Seconder Susan Jones</p> <p>Executive Committee members Nominee Brian Loader Proposer Ged Jones Seconder Susan Jones</p> <p>Nominee Julia Nicholson Proposer John Eakins Seconder Michael McCormick</p> <p>Nominee Ameer Tabarandak Proposer Brian Loader Seconder Malcolm Kimber</p> <p>Nominee Janet Tabarandak Proposer Brian Loader Seconder Malcolm Kimber</p> |
| 9 | <p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Tricia Thomas proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and this was endorsed with a hearty round of applause.</p> <p>Stuart Fairbrother asked about the situation regarding the Out & About group now that its leader had stepped down. Brian explained that Mick Love had kindly agreed to take on the role of Group Leader for Out & About.</p> |