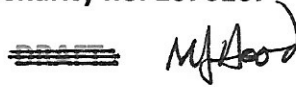


# The Charnwood u3a

Registered Charity no. 1076107

 Mike Hood

## MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT 2.30 ON MARCH 9TH 2022

### 1. Welcome and Apologies

Chair Mike Hood welcomed 102 members to the Annual General Meeting including 11 members joining on Zoom. Apologies for absence had been received from 7 members: Barbara Atkinson, Ann Brown, Roger Harris, Sue Holder, Elizabeth Peers, Stephen Timerick, Hilary Wilson.

Procedures for voting were explained and attendees were informed that the meeting would be recorded, then deleted once the minutes were written.

### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021

The minutes were approved and signed. There were no matters arising.

### 3. Reception and Approval of the Annual Report

The Chair, Mike Hood, began by saying that despite a second difficult year, Charnwood u3a had remained active and had managed to retain the majority of its members. We had lost a small number of groups, but gained two new ones: Sustaining the Planet and Scottish Dancing. In October 2021 Cu3a returned to face to face meetings in Emmanuel Church, where hybrid meetings gave access to members preferring to attend via Zoom.

Another busy year for the Committee had produced new policies on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and a Complaints Policy and Procedure. These policies, along with updated versions of the Local Policies and Group Management documents, were available on the website. The Committee would shortly begin work on a review of the Cu3a constitution, with any changes to be submitted to the 2023 AGM for approval.

There were few changes to the current Committee. Phil Bass would be standing down as a Trustee, but would be continuing as Beacon Administrator, while Hilary Knowles had resigned due to ill health, her role taken over by Bev Gillman. Mike thanked Hilary and Phil for their work and wished Hilary well in her recovery.

Mike also thanked a number of non-committee members for enabling the smooth running of monthly meetings: Garry Rigby and Andrew Rick for their technical support, Sue Young and her team on the Welcome group, Graham Cooper for organising the speaker programme and Patricia Drake and her team for managing refreshments. Mike asked that additional volunteers for the refreshment rota contact Patricia.

The management of the Cu3a website had changed when Laws Hosting gave notice that they would be closing down at the end of 2021. The chosen replacement, Krystal Hosting, has made the website much easier to manage. Mike thanked Tony Westaway for his hard work in ensuring a smooth transition.

Mike reminded members of three celebrations due to take place in 2022: the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Third Age Trust and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Charnwood u3a. Charnwood Borough Council had asked us to participate in the Jubilee event in Queen's Park on Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup>. This would be an opportunity to show what Cu3a has to offer and members were urged to come forward with ideas and offers of help on the day.

The report was approved unanimously.

#### **4. Reception and Approval of the Treasurer's Report, Draft Annual Accounts and 2022 Budget Forecast**

Treasurer Bob Pyatt repeated the Chair's observation that 2021 had been a difficult year. Fixed costs such as the Third Age Matters magazine (currently £3.50 per member) continued and the capitation fee was expected to increase in 2022 to £4.00. However, though our reserves had diminished, the Cu3a finances were still in good order. Many group activities had restarted and membership renewals had continued.

Changes in the management of group funds required by the Third Age Trust had not been without difficulties and Bob thanked group leaders for their cooperation, recognizing that the financial affairs of some interest groups were more complex than others. He emphasized that that all group funds transferred to the central fund were ring-fenced for the sole use of the group and that any payments from those funds were protected by dual authorization. He intended to raise issues flowing from the TAT instruction on Financial Matters 2019 at the Network AGM on 10th March.

A recommendation for an increase in subscriptions of £2.50 (a nett reduction of 33%) was on the agenda, though Bob told the meeting that it might be necessary next year to return to the 2019 membership fee. Nevertheless, he assured members that Cu3a would ensure that costs remained as low as possible.

The report was accepted unanimously.

#### **5. Appointment of Independent Examiner for the account**

Delays in the presentation of group accounts and constraints in the work schedule of Cound and Co meant that our accounts were not yet approved. Members voted unanimously to endorse Cound and Co as independent examiners.

#### **6. Membership Subscriptions**

*Motion: That membership subscriptions should remain at £15, with a one third reduction for 2022-3.*

The Chair explained that the increase on last year's fee was necessary to avoid any

potential risk to our cash flow situation. He pointed out that £10, representing a reduction of 33%, was still excellent value.

The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

#### **7. Receiving News and Views by Post**

*Motion: That members wishing to receive a paper copy of News and Views be charged £5 per annum. This would take effect from 2022-23.*

The Chair explained that around 50 members currently received News and Views by post, costing Cu3a around £500 a year. It was proposed that these members pay an additional fee of £5 per year as a contribution to increased postage and printing costs. The motion was carried overwhelmingly.

#### **8. Purchase of trees for the TAT forest.**

*Motion: That Charnwood u3a sponsor a copse of 100 trees to join in the u3a 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary planting in the TAT newly purchased area in the Brecon Beacons, at a cost of £750.*

This member's motion was proposed by Diana Harvey. She spoke about the need to plant trees to counteract the effects of climate change, as well as supporting the Third Age Trust's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary project. A number of members spoke in favour of the proposal, while others felt that the cost was inadvisable in view of our financial situation. Alternative suggestions included donations to tree planting in our local area rather than in the Brecon Beacons and supporting the project with a smaller donation. There was support for the idea that members might contribute individually to the project and Diana explained that this was possible via the Brand section of the TAT website.

The motion was defeated, but Diana agreed to prepare a strategy that might enable members to contribute to a fund to support a tree planting project.

#### **9. Election of Officers and Committee Members.**

Two Committee members had reached the end of their term of office: Bob Pyatt and Helen Reid. Both were prepared to continue, as permitted under the Constitution.

Additional nominations to the Committee were Bev Gillman (proposed by Fiona Mitchinson-Tulip; seconded by Jane North), Margaret Kelvey (proposed by Helen Wilson; seconded by Hans Butler) and Garry Rigby (proposed by Andrew Rick; seconded by Michael Charlesworth).

All were approved unanimously.

#### **10. A.O.B.**

None

The meeting concluded at 15.20

Accepted As Correct  
At 2023 AGM.

MJ Hood  
8/3/29