

Draft Minutes of the AGM held in the Priory Hall Much Wenlock on 12th March 2025

Chair : Alison Richards Minutes: Jane Hague

1. Welcome & Apologies for Absence

Members were welcomed to the 13th Annual General Meeting of the Much Wenlock, Broseley & District u3a.

The three fire exits were indicated.

Apologies for absence had been received from Annette Dickinson-Flint, Patrick Cooper, Chris Tyler and Glynn Emery.

2. Minutes of the Last Meeting

The draft minutes had been posted on the website and printed copies were available. The minutes of the AGM held on 12 June 2024 were accepted as a true record.

In passing, it was suggested that members could refer to the Administration & Policies page under the 'About Us' tab on our website.

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

No matters were raised.

4. Chairman's Report on Behalf of the Trustees

The Chair remarked that it was only nine months since the last AGM, and the reason for this would become clear later in the meeting. She indicated that a 'Letter from your Chair' will be emailed to all members in the coming days, which will include up-to-date news about our interest and social groups.

It was reported that the headline news since our last AGM was that we have a new website which is based on SiteWorks, a web authoring system, facilitated by The Third Age Trust and based on the widely used WordPress software. Our webmaster, Neil Lloyd did a tremendous job of migrating us across from the old SiteBuilder platform and continues to work hard, keeping the site up to date and relevant. Anyone who had not already visited it, was encouraged to do so.

It was reported that "the website reflects everything that is happening in our u3a. We have more than 250 members with many of our more recent recruits joining because of a particular interest group, the new, and very popular, History group. This is so popular in fact that it is currently operating as four sub-groups."

“If you click on any of the headings, you can learn more about the activities of that group. For example, the Walking for All group lists their upcoming routes as well as useful tips. The Ukulele group has posted its songbooks, playlist and even a video of them rehearsing! The Creative Writing group offer you a Book of the Month featuring extracts read by the author.”

“If you want to find out more about our monthly meetings, they are listed on the ‘Events’ page with more detail available again if you click on the heading. We have Jean Buswell to thank, along with her team, for arranging our excellent programme.”

A very big “Thank You” was made to everyone who had contributed to the continuing success of our u3a this year including, but not limited to, our Group Leaders, the Refreshments team at our monthly meetings and everyone who had helped at our promotional events such as this Uke3a and guitar group concert and information day in The Square last September. Not forgetting of course ...
... our hard-working committee. Members were directed to the ‘About Us’ page on the website if they wanted to know more about any of us, and from where they can send a message to us.

12 of our 13 committee members stood for re-election but Linda Wallace who has served as Chair, Vice Chair and Groups Co-ordinator during her nine years on the committee had stepped down so the members showed their appreciation for all that she had done for our u3a. She was presented with a bunch of flowers.

Finally, the members were thanked for their continuing support.

5. Financial Reports (Financial Year 1st January 2024 to 31st December 2024)

The Financial Statement for 2024 and the budget for 2025 had been posted on the website and printed copies were available.

The Treasurer, Glynn Emery, was thanked for his work this year and for preparing the reports. In his summary he had stated that whilst we still have a healthy closing position, we were also eating into our bank balance every year hence the proposed changes to fees. In 2023 we had a loss of over £750 and in 2024, £200.

It was also pointed out that of the £3749 spent, £1,929 of this goes to The Third Age Trust for their various services, which was over 50% of our income. Also, around a third of our income was spent on the hall, speakers and publicity for our monthly meetings.

The budget proposed by the committee for 2025 was compared with the actual spend by category in 2024, illustrating that without increasing our income, we would be forecasting a loss of £335. The committee had discussed this in detail and our proposals for rectifying the situation would be covered by the resolutions under Items 9 and 10 of the agenda.

6. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts (1st January to 31st December 2025)

It was reported that Heather Sower had examined the accounts for the year, for which she was thanked and she had agreed to do the same in 2025. Heather has a Diploma in Financial Studies, a Masters in Business Administration and is an Associate of the Chartered Institute

of Bankers. She is a member of our u3a but does not serve on the committee and so it was proposed that she was appointed again as the Examiner of Accounts for 2025. This was agreed.

7. Election of Officers

Nominations had been received by the due date for:

Chair: Alison Richards

Vice-Chair: Neil Lloyd

Secretary: Jane Hague

Treasurer: Glynn Emery

In the absence of other nominations, Alison, Neil, Jane and Glynn were declared elected.

8. Election of Executive Committee Members

It was stated that under the constitution there could be up to 13 members, including the officers and so there were nine committee places available. Valid nominations had been received by the due date from: Jean Buswell, Ian Cohen, Jo Cohen, Linda Davies, David Foster, Christina Gore, Bill Hague, Neil Lloyd, Michael Theobalds.

In the absence of other nominations, Jean, Ian, Jo, Linda, Christina, Bill, Neil and Michael were declared elected.

The members present were invited to offer to stand as committee members.

9. Agreement of Membership Fee for 2025/26

Membership year runs from 1st May to 30th April

- £15 for individuals

- £28 for a couple living at the same address

Issues

Inflation of outgoings, particularly mandatory payments to the Third Age Trust (TAT):

Subscription per member to TAT - £4.00

'u3a Matters 'magazine distribution - £4.00

Cost of Beacon database license - £1.00

Total cost per member is £9.00

Cash outflow to Third Age Trust in April annually
(prior to subscriptions being received)

Proposal :- Agreement of Membership Fee for 2025/26

The committee proposed that we moved, & temporarily reduced the length of the next membership period, but not to change the subscription charges.

Thus from 1st May, 2025 to 31st January, 2026, the charges would remain at £15 for individuals and £28 for a couple living at the same address.

A show of hands showed a clear majority in favour of the motion.

10. Agreement of Membership Fee for 2026/27

Proposal : Agreement of Membership Fee for 2026/27

It was proposed that the membership year for 2026/27 runs from 1st February, 2026 to 31st January 2027 and that the subscription charges were raised to:

£18 for individuals and

£34 for a couple living at the same address

A show of hands showed a clear majority in favour of the motion.

11. Any Other Business

Jo Jackson expressed her thanks for all the work done by the Committee.

Consideration for members being able to opt out of the magazine, was requested, as this would save money. It was agreed this would be discussed by the Committee.

Meeting closed at 2.22pm.