

**Princes Risborough and District U3A**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Tuesday 10th October 2017 at 2pm  
at the Princes Risborough Community Centre**

**Present:** Michael George (President), Gill Wilkinson (Chair), Steve Williams (Treasurer), John Culling (Membership Secretary), Pauline Watts (Secretary), Christine Huggins (Group Leaders Co-ordinator), Cathy Whiteway (Social Events Secretary), Angela Wall (Speaker Secretary) and 119 U3A members.

**1. Introduction**

**The Chair, Gill Wilkinson,** introduced the 2 Fire Marshalls, Elaine Barker and Sue Potter. She went through the fire drill and said there would be a practice session at one of the monthly meetings in the near future.

**The President, Michael George,** welcomed all members to the AGM and was pleased to see so many attending. He then said that the Princes Risborough U3A was set up in August 2001, which makes this the 15<sup>th</sup> AGM. At the very first meeting ever there were 80 members and by the 1<sup>st</sup> AGM in 2002 it had doubled to 168. He is waiting, with interest, for the membership figures for 2017. From the original committee of 9 there are only 3 remaining. At that time there were 13 groups- now there are over 30. He thanked all the hard-working committee members throughout the years who have made the Princes Risborough U3A one of the most successful in the country.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Kate Mazdon, Vivien Catlin, David brown, Richard Jones, Tim Addison, Tony Molesworth, Chris Mansfield, Valerie Page, Barry Clark, Carol Barford, Peter Dixon and Margaret Lewis.

**3. Acceptance of AGM minutes for 2016**

Acceptance of the minutes of the last AGM was proposed by Peter Moss and seconded by Elaine Barker. Agreement was unanimous and the minutes were signed by Michael George.

**4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**5. Chair's Report**

Firstly, thank you Michael, for chairing today's meeting.

Perhaps 2017 was a quieter year than 2016, as no major referenda has been held, although we do now have endless Brexit talks and there was a General Election with, for some, surprising results. Hopefully this AGM won't be quite so difficult!

For us here in Princes Risborough, we have seen a new museum opening, the continuing debate on building new homes and new waiting restrictions on many of our roads (loved by some, hated by others!) However, our U3A continues to survive and grows from strength to strength.

Our stand at the Risborough Festival was a great occasion to meet prospective new members and to tell people what we do. We are so grateful to all of those who volunteered to spend some time meeting and talking to interested people and really glad that no-one got sunstroke! We were also encouraged by the groups who sent in photos for our display. However, it would have been good to have more examples of what our groups do, so please start clicking for next year. As a reward to those who did send in photos, they each won a bottle of wine. (Michael then presented these to the winners).

Our speakers at the general meetings have been fabulous and Angela has done a really good job of making sure that we are entertained with so many different subjects. The variety of subjects talked about means that there is something for everyone, so do encourage more to attend. It's a great time to meet people from groups you don't normally go to. As always, our many groups have provided stimulus and enjoyment to us all. I do thank all the group leaders for their work and enthusiasm. Without them, what would we do with our time? However, one of our difficulties is finding new leaders to take over existing groups (eg Psychology and Health and Wellbeing). It is such a shame that popular groups have to stop because there is no one to lead them. We really want to encourage people to be more active in their groups- whether it is making tea, speaking about a pet subject or maybe taking a turn at leading. Christine has always been on hand to help and support groups and I'm sure whoever replaces her on the committee will be equally helpful.

We have also been well entertained by our Social group where Cathy and Jenny have worked hard to provide us with varied activities. Sadly, the Jane Austen dance had to be postponed due to lack of support, but it has been rescheduled, so we hope that the budding Mr Darcys and Elizabeth Bennets will come forward for that.

At every AGM there is a tinge of sadness as we remember those of our number who have died during the year, including Michael Baker, Paulette Bowers, Dorothy Brock, Pat Fisher and Pat Mills. They will be remembered and missed by many. We also have to say goodbye to committee members who have worked in different roles during the

## Draft Minutes – subject to approval at the 2018 AGM

past 3 years for our U3A. This year is no exception as we say a huge thank you and goodbye to Pauline, Christine, Steve and Jenny. Pauline has been brilliant with arranging meetings, producing agendas and minutes; Christine has been a really steady support for all our group leaders; Jenny has very ably assisted Cathy with the social events and Steve has kept our accounts in tip top order. We are really sad to see them leave us but 3 years is up and, happily, we have enough nominations for committee to fill all our roles and, I am sure, we will have a group of people with varied interests and skills to make a successful working committee for you all.

I also want to give a really big thank you to our continuing committee members who work really hard to ensure our U3A runs like clockwork. To Richard for producing PreVIEW as well as working at many other things; to David who aims to get information out to you as soon as possible in the best way possible; to John who now has our membership details so brilliantly organised he can tell you anything; to Angela for organising our speakers and Cathy for arranging the many and varied social occasions enjoyed by many. Thank you to all of you and, if I'm voted back onto the committee (keeping fingers crossed!), I look forward to working with you for another year.

As well as our group leaders there are so many people who work behind the scenes to ensure our U3A runs smoothly. I give our very grateful thanks to our audio-visual team, the chair teams, tea makers and equipment holders. We may not say thank you every time but we really do appreciate all you do for us. Also a big thank you to our President, Michael, who, as well as chairing this meeting, is a great help behind the scenes and a real fountain of knowledge. Lastly, I would like to thank you, our members, for your interest, enthusiasm and support. I hope you continue to enjoy Princes Risborough U3A for many years to come. Let's look forward to the coming year, make an aim to be more active in our existing groups and, hopefully, start a few new ones. After all, our aim in the U3A is to facilitate learning, laughing, and, above all, socialising and friendship for many.

Michael George thanked Gill for her report and, as there were no questions, acceptance of the Chair's Report was proposed by Penny Young, seconded by Ros Martin Hall and confirmed by a show of hands.

### 6. Treasurer's Report

**Steve Williams** presented the Treasurer's Report.

He reported that the accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2017 had been prepared and approved by the Independent Examiner. The Risborough and District U3A remains solvent and financially sound. He presented the details using a PowerPoint presentation.

Our accounting policies follow the National U3A guidelines. We have 2 accounts. The Charity Account deals with the finances of the Charity and these details form the basis of our annual report to the Charities Commission.

The Charity's income is mainly from subscriptions and the Gift Aid we are able to claim on these. Smaller items of income are from the sale of U3A diaries, bank interest and surplus funds from groups that close. The income for 2016/17 was £9,904.

The expenditure covers the running costs of the U3A including the monthly meetings, publicity, administration, support of groups and new equipment. Significant new equipment this year included a new computer to handle the membership database, sound equipment, office storage and a new projector. The expenditure for the year was £11,029. Expenditure exceeded income by £1,125. The excess of expenditure over income was planned and not a problem, as the reserves of the U3A were ample to cover this amount. The assets as at 31<sup>st</sup> August were £14,465 but if the advanced payment of 2017/18 subscriptions are excluded, the amount was still £10,463, more than sufficient to cover any unforeseen contingencies.

We also have a **Social Account** which provides a cheque banking and payment facility for any groups who wish to use it. During the year in excess of £64,000 was paid into the account. At the end of the year there was £7,669 in the account, mainly relating to income received, such as payment for theatre trips and holiday deposits, for which the expenditure was not yet due. Many of the groups handle their own finances and they reported that they held funds amounting to £3,106 as at 31<sup>st</sup> August. This is an average of £103 per group but actual amounts vary greatly. A further £1,849 is held in the Social Account on behalf of 7 groups.

Michael George thanked Steve for his report. There were no questions and acceptance of the Treasurer's Report was proposed by Martin Thomas, seconded by Arthur Edwards and confirmed by a show of hands.

### 7. Membership Secretary's Report

**John Culling** presented the Membership Secretary's report.

**Membership-** We began the year with 547 members and during the year 43 members left- 6 deceased, 12 moved away, 23 resigned and 2 due to poor health. 71 new members joined. The year ended with 575 members. All members are Full Members, the committee having decided, for the present at least, not to re-introduce Associate Membership.

**Meeting Attendances-** The average attendance over the year was 130. The highest was 171 with the lowest 90. Comparison year on year shows very little change in the average attending although the monthly figures change quite markedly.

**Other-** We have continued the use of our Management Database and a large number of members have provided ICE data. This enables us to support Group Leaders with information about their group members.

## Draft Minutes – subject to approval at the 2018 AGM

The distribution of PreVIEW and Subscription renewals is carried out by volunteer members to whom thanks is due.

Michael George thanked John for his report and stressed the importance of ICE details. He also added that we are the youngest U3A group in the area as well as the largest. Many visiting speakers speak highly of us as a thriving group.

### 8. Social Events Secretary's Report

**Cathy Whiteway** presented this report.

During the year I have organised several events designed for members to be sociable and to enjoy themselves, and this year I will change the official title of my role to Social Events Secretary which explains better what I do.

Last Christmas the December meeting had the usual wine and festive food to go with the entertainment organised by the Speaker Secretary. In the Spring there was an Easter Craft morning to try out new craft ideas and skills in a sociable atmosphere. We have recently had another Beetle Drive: lots of fun and a chance to be sociable with other members. Comments from members said how much they had enjoyed these last 2 events. During the year we have had 2 events especially for new members to meet the committee and group leaders and the next one of these will be in January 2018.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> is this year's quiz. There will be a 2 course meal included in the bargain ticket price of £6.

The Christmas main meeting format will be slightly different: there will be light lunch, followed by entertainment. Bring your own glass but wine will be provided. Tickets costing £2 will be available at the November meetings and from me.

The first social event of 2018 will be the Jane Austen Tea Dance on Feb.4<sup>th</sup>. You are invited to dance in Regency style. You can Google a YouTube clip of any Pride and Prejudice /Emma film to see the style. Tickets will cost £8.

Many thanks are due to everyone who helped organise and run these events, particularly Jenny Boorer. If any of you have ideas for other events please let me know.

Michael George thanked Cathy for her report and hard work.

### 9. Election of Committee Members

Michael thanked the 4 committee members who were standing down: Steve Williams, Christine Huggins, Jenny Boorer and Pauline Watts. They were then presented with gifts as a thank you for all their hard work and commitment whilst on the committee.

Michael said that to help solve the problem with the numbers of committee members getting out of balance, 3 existing members have volunteered to stay on for another year. They are Gill, Angela and John. He proposed that they were elected to serve another year. This was seconded by Arthur Edwards. All present were in favour.

Michael then introduced the 4 prospective new committee members: Jenny and Colin Robinson, Eleanor McGregor and Ray Marshall. He proposed that there was an acceptance of the 4 new members and the rest of the committee. Don Gill seconded this and there was a show of hands to show full agreement.

### 10. AOB

There was no any other business.

The meeting closed at 2.59 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....