

PORTSDOWN U3A
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD ON 15th NOVEMBER 2017
AT COSHAM BAPTIST CHURCH,

Carole Chapman gave Notice of the Annual General Meeting.

1. Apologies had been received from Sharon Searle, Diana Warren, Carol and Bill Evans, Anne Ryder, Liz Thomas, Helen Keeley and Heather Henderson.

2. Minutes of the last meeting: the last AGM was held on 16th November 2016. The Minutes had been on the website all year. They had also been emailed to those members who were online. Some paper copies were also available. Acceptance of the Minutes as an accurate record was proposed by Judy Jones and seconded by Vivienne Grigson. The Minutes were thus agreed by all and duly signed as such by Beryl.

3. Matters Arising: There were no Matters Arising.

4. Chair's Report:

- Beryl stated that she would like to start by reminding members of the ethos behind the U3A.
- Membership is open to all who are out of full time employment. Its members promote the values of lifelong learning by forming groups of like minded people, promote learning for its own sake, and do not distinguish between learners and teachers.
- All U3A members are both and give freely of their time and expertise. I would like to think that Portsdown follows these principles but like many other organisations, those who put most in probably get the most out but all are welcome.
- I hope those of you who saw the article in the News at the weekend are proud of what we have achieved and hopefully it will result in people wanting to share the welcome and friendship that is on offer.
- We now have a new Treasurer and I would like to introduce you to Tony who I am delighted to say, has relieved me of much work. However he is new in the post and the accounts have been prepared by me as I was acting as Treasurer for most of the financial year. I feel duty bound to tell you that the Independent Examiner was appointed when I wasn't Treasurer and there wasn't time to find another. The Independent Examiner is my son-in-law, a qualified CIPFA accountant (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountants) and if anyone is unhappy with the decision of the committee, they are at liber-

ty to examine the accounts. There is of course a school of thought that mothers-in-law may be less favoured than others. I hope you will be happy with the state of our finances and the committee have agreed that for 2018/19 we will not need to raise the subscription.

- It has been a very busy year for Carole and I keeping Portsdown on track and on the map. It is not as easy as it might sound. Of course we haven't done it alone and I would like to thank the committee and the other people who have helped us during the year including those who are not members such as Chris and Duncan. Next year is also looking quite busy and we will continue to need the support of the members.
- We have a new man, Peter Smith, who is going to look after the editing of the Newsletter and arranging the speakers list. We also have a new Group Co-ordinator in Joyce Wilkinson and I would like to thank Pam and Janice for their past contribution.
- I am pleased that so many have signed up for Gift Aid but I must give a word of warning; if you pay less income tax or capital gains tax in the current year, than the amount of all the Gift Aid claimed on your total donations to all organisations, you are responsible for paying the difference back to HMRC.
- Unless you are quite rich and give generously to lots of charities, it is rarely a problem, but you should be aware.
- The Beacon system is working quite well in regard to the aspects we currently use, with just a few hiccoughs now and again. Some further areas are being considered.
- The website is now being used more often, and more information is being posted. I would like to thank Simon for his huge contribution. We are developing plans for making more use of the website.
- We have lost one group in recent months and rescued two others and we have at least one other group that will need a new leader in the new year.
- After Christmas, we are hoping to establish who is interested in what and if we can encourage the start up of some different groups. How about Line Dancing or Canasta or even a Gardens group without any gardening!!

5. Treasurer's Report and the Appointment of an Independent Examiner for the Accounts:

- The accounts showing combined total assets as £6,513.88 were tabled. Tony gave the current figures. The meeting approved the appointment of Eric Norman as our Independent Examiner for the coming year. This was proposed by Philip Dare and seconded by Charmian Reid.

6. Business Secretary's Report:

- 2016-2017 has been an extremely busy year. Although a major part of my role centres on the everyday administration of our U3A and contacts with the National Office, it also involves the management of events which, I hope, enhance the experience of our members.
- And just a quick reminder: there is still time to get your free tickets from me for our Annual Lecture by Nicholas Jellicoe. This will take place here in exactly two weeks, at 2.00pm on Wednesday 29 November.
- At the beginning of this year, I was part of the Subcommittee for the 10th Anniversary of Portsdown U3A. This was especially concerned with the planning of our celebration at the Mountbatten Centre, which was attended by the Chairman of the National Executive Committee, Pam Jones. I would like to thank Julie and Judy from our Committee and also Joyce Doe, Shana Thomson and Vivien Walters for all their efforts. This is especially the case as I had my accident less than a week before the event, and additional thanks are due to Beryl for dealing with all the last-minute issues.
- As a result of this year's other activities, I have also served on the Subcommittee for the Open Afternoon, and continue to serve on those for the Website and Beacon. In all of our efforts, I have greatly appreciated the support of the other members of the Committee, and especially of Beryl.
- This year, it has continued to be a privilege to work with the Jutland Research Group. At the beginning of 2017, there were a series of project exhibitions across the city, culminating in that from May to June at the History Centre in the Central Library in Guildhall Square. On 5 July, the group was also able to showcase its work at the U3A South East Region Research Conference at Royal Holloway, University of London. The digital version of the project's map has also been completed and can be found on the Port Towns and Urban Cultures website.
- I have also been part of a small group that is researching the fight for women's suffrage in the Portsmouth area. This is part of a Shared Learning Project, *Citizens*, which, again, is being led by Royal Holloway. We have also established links with a local initiative from the University of Portsmouth, *Women's Community Activism in Portsmouth Since 1960*. These activities reflect my role as a U3A Research Ambassador.
- The other major opportunity for me has been further involvement in intergenerational debating. In June, Nigel Gossop and I took part in the Portsmouth Festivities Young People's Debate at Portsmouth Grammar School. We proposed the motion: *This House Believes that playing too many video games has a negative effect on a young mind* and we won. We have already had an invitation for 2018.

- Once again this year, Beryl and I had the opportunity to attend the National U3A Conference in Nottingham and, as always, it proved to be very useful as a means of meeting other U3A members and of finding out how other groups are managed.
- Next year promises to be as busy. We will certainly be offering another lecture.
- So I would finally like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be involved in so many interesting things.

7. Elections: Beryl explained that we now come to the election of an Officer and the election of a member of the Committee. Carole read out the nominations:

The election of an Officer of the Committee: Treasurer

Nomination – Anthony Paul (285) proposed by Susan Jenkins (270) and seconded by Elizabeth Mitchell (192).

The election of a Member of the Committee:

Nomination – Peter Smith (380) proposed by Joan Heard (231) and seconded by Pamela Smith (113).

Both were individually and duly elected on to the Committee.

Beryl then explained that the official business was now concluded and as such declared this part of the meeting closed.

CLOSURE OF THE FORMAL BUSINESS OF THE MEETING at 2.20pm

Beryl wished to record her thanks to the committee and the Group Leaders for all their hard work during 2017.

Christine London gave thanks for the committee’s hard work during the year.

Signed..... (Chair) Date.....