

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Carrick U3A

Wednesday 5th April 2023 at the Perranwell Centre

1. The Chairman welcomed the 117 members in attendance and declared the meeting quorate.

2. Apologies:

Shirley Cardus, Les and Brenda Moulson, Jill Mooney, Joanne Wright, Anne Bartlett, Roy Fisher, Margaret Ingles, Sylvia Roper, Jimmy Jackson, Brian Kirkpatrick, Diane Tyas, John and Helen Whomersley, Patrick Haughton, Jenny Tippet

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th April 2022

The minutes were published in the March 2023 newsletter. Proposed as correct by Ray Hawkesford, seconded by Gordon Richards.

Agreed by a majority of members present.

4. Matters Arising:

None.

5. Chairman's Report:

John Bishop reported another successful year for Carrick u3a with numbers gradually increasing. Carrick membership had decreased by about 23% as a result of the pandemic whereas the Third Age Trust as a whole had seen a decrease of 60% nationally. John noted that we had a happy, agreeable committee, on good terms with the membership and especially thanked the efforts of group leaders, who together with the committee form the backbone of our u3a. He made a special mention of the newsletter editor, Mark Breach, for the production of our informative newsletter and keeping the calendar up to date with the regular input of information. Finally John said he had enjoyed being Chairman for the past 5 years and looked forward to enjoying membership of this special u3a.

6. Membership Secretary's report.

Bob Williams reported that we currently have 660 members compared with 647 last year, 100 of them new to Carrick u3a; hopefully that will increase further next year. The large number of groups and activities offered by our u3a is entirely thanks to members offering their expertise, time and interest.

Bob explained that £4 of membership fee went to the Third Age Trust. Postage of membership cards is also included and will have the members password for the website printed on it this year. It is shortly to be changed and members will be advised of the timescale.

The newsletter is free by email but 192 have a paper newsletter at present, over half contributing to postage. Some of the remainder are hand delivered but the system is fragile.

Postage for Third Age Matters is £3.60 and set by the Trust.

Finally Bob thanked Mark Breach, our Newsletter editor and Paul and Edith Lucas who collect and prepare Newsletters for distribution. Also to the team of webmasters for rebuilding and keeping our website up to date

7. Treasurer's report and adoption of the accounts for 2022.

The Treasurer greeted the members and reported a successful financial year. She thanked our Independent Examiner, Charles Ross on behalf of the committee for scrutinising the accounts for the year.

The accounts have been printed in the newsletter on a monthly basis together with the December year end accounts.

There was a shortfall on 2022 accounts of £4,970.91 and £1,838.68 to date in 2023 with expected further outgoings of £4,466.80 prior to the end of the membership year. The financial year runs from January to December whilst the membership year runs from May to April.

Venue costs and printing and postage are all increasing hence the request to raise the membership fee for the 2023-24 year and charge postage for printed newsletters.

Accrued reserves in excess of Charity Commission recommendations mean that the increase is less than it may otherwise have been.

Adoption of the Accounts, proposed by David Weaver, seconded by Brenda Williams Agreed by a majority of members present

8. Proposal for an increase in the subscription for 2023-24;

The annual subscription will increase to £26; this to include postage of membership cards. All members are eligible to receive a monthly newsletter by email. If any member wishes to receive a paper copy there will be a further charge of £9 to cover postage. The charge for new members from 1st November will rise to £16.

The membership secretary introduced the proposal and explained that it was necessary in view of the rise in costs generally. The last increase had been in 2017. Carrick had been able to draw on accrued funds for the last year and the coming one Proposed by the Committee

Agreed by a majority of members present.

9. Vote of thanks for retiring officers and committee members.

The Chairman noted that he was the only Officer actually retiring at this meeting. The Secretary thanked John Bishop for all he had contributed to Carrick u3a and he and his wife, Janet, were presented with a card and plant from members.

10. Election of Officers and Committee:

In accordance with our constitution the committee shall consist of not less than 5 and not more than 12 elected members.

General committee members who were elected in 2022 stand for 2 years and are, Lyn Chapman, Margaret Ingles, Mervyn Knight, Paul Lucas, Jimmy Jackson, Sylvia Roper and Pat Harrod

Pat Harrod introduced those members standing for election as Officers, who serve for one year.

Lesley Parsons for the office of Chair

Sue Hutt for the office of Vice- Chair.

Jenny Fulleylove for the office of Treasurer

Gillian Davies for the office of General Secretary

Bob Williams for the office of Membership Secretary

There being only one nomination for each post the committee members were elected by a show of hands.

Lesley Parsons then took the chair and invited each of the committee members present to introduce themselves.

10. Appointment of an Independent Examiner.

It was proposed that the committee be able to appoint an Independent examiner to scrutinise the accounts.

Proposed by David Weaver, Seconded by Ken Whitley and was agreed by a majority show of hands.

The formal business of the meeting concluded at 11am

The Chair then invited members to air any concerns or ask questions.

Sue Corcoran asked for clarification of the Charity commission advice reference reserves.

The Treasurer explained that the Charity Commission recommendation was for reserves to be in the region of one year's annual expenditure.

Gill Widdison asked if there were plans to spend the Tony herring legacy. Lesley replied that the committee was open to any suggestions from members. Gill replied that suggestions had previously been offered. Pat Harrod commented that some time had passed since those discussions and the committee had changed in the meantime.

Richard Allen wished to express thanks to members of the committee and was thanked by the Chair.

David Weaver wished to raise the issue of publicity and was thanked by the Chair.

There being no further questions the meeting dispersed.