

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Carrick u3a.

Wednesday 10th April 2024 at the Perranwell Centre

1. The Chair welcomed the 100 members in attendance making the meeting quorate.

2. Apologies

Helen and John Whomersley, Jenny Tippett, Anne Bartlett, Annette Snell, Brenda Williams, Helen Reilly, Louise Spargoe, Adrian Rowlands, Kate and Jay Gidman, Rosemarie Eccleston, Linda Livingstone-Beggs, David and June Commerford, Steve Cook, Christine and John Daly, Laraine Sowden, Helene Boyse, Adrian Smith and Amanda Starkey.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 5th April 2023

The Minutes were published in the March 2024 newsletter. Proposed as correct by Jean King, seconded by Nick Parsons. Agreed by a majority present.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Report from the Chair

Lesley Parsons noted how fast the year had gone. It had been busy with detailed discussion in committee. She felt that demonstrated we have an active committee and went on to highlight some of the innovations of 2023-24.

The University Liaison, suggested by a former committee member had started successfully with a seminar on Blue water health followed by lunch. Tony Herring memorial lectures had been initiated with more being negotiated, the most recent being about local involvement in code breaking during WW2

Various ways to raise extra funds to counter increasing venue costs are being explored and members have already enjoyed a quiz and rock and roll night. The Charity Lottery is also up and running and Lesley encouraged participation.

The beacon administration system, devised by the Third Age Trust was now being used and it was hoped this would make life much easier for the Treasurer and Membership secretary.

As reported last year the current funding system for Carrick u3a is being examined.

Information gathering has started with group leaders and input from interested parties will be requested at some stage.

A number of the committee are stepping down this year so that does mean there are some vacancies. With a current membership of over 700 there must be more than 10 who can take part in the organisational aspect. Make arrangements to come along to a meeting and see what we do.

This is a very dynamic committee and I am supported by a very hard working Vice chair, thank you Sue, Bob has done amazing work as Membership secretary and Jenny keeps a close eye on our spending. Generally everyone gets on with so many ideas so a warm thank you to them all..

Lesley went on to encourage members to contribute to the Newsletter, Argus and Facebook page. We need help with promoting Carrick u3a and interested people to help with fundraising or group development.

Lesley thanked the 2 groups participating today and encouraged members to support the planned Christmas concert highlighting more group activities. A final thank you to all in attendance which makes her think that we are going in the right direction.

6. Membership Secretary's report

Bob Williams said it was his second year as Membership Secretary.

He started by noting that the membership system he inherited had served its purpose and could no longer be updated. Following research and discussions with the committee, he put

forward the proposal to adopt the Third Age Trust membership system, called Beacon. This system integrates membership, finance and groups and is fully GDPR compliant. It is already simplifying the roles of the Treasurer and himself. Further benefits will ensue as the system is rolled out to groups.

There are 715 members at present compared with 660 last year, 146 are new to Carrick u3a.

The large number of groups on offer is entirely thanks to members who voluntarily offer their expertise, time and interest.

The membership fee includes a £4 subscription to the Third Age Trust and postage of membership cards. The new card will have a different format but will still have the password for the members section of the website on the reverse. Members will be advised when this change takes place.

Bob made a plea to be informed of any change of contact details.

Lastly, thanks were expressed to Mark Breach, our editor, Paul Lucas and his wife Edith and to Jenny who between them collect and prepare newsletters for distribution. Also to our team of webmasters for keeping our website up to date.

7. Treasurer's report and Adoption of Accounts

Jenny Fulleylove welcomed members and commenced her report on the accounts which had been gathered using the system which had been in use for some years. This time the end of year had been moved on to January 31st making a 13 month period. This made updating accounts easier away from the Christmas/ New Year period.

Jenny reported that financially, we are in a good standing, the end of year figures do show a deficit, which is only temporary.

The committee had discussed, and agreed, to invest £10,000 in a high interest deposit account, plus the remainder of the Tony Herring legacy and additional monies into an easy Access, monthly interest account in order to earn additional money.

£22,272.00 including the savings of £15,000 was held at year end.

Some of the interest earned will relate to last year as the accounts were opened before year end.

The accounts have been examined by Charles Ross, and Jenny proposed they be accepted. This was seconded by Nick Parsons and agreed by a majority present.

Jenny made a request for anyone who could put forward the name of someone to take on the role of account examiner as Mr Ross could not fulfil the roll for more than 3 years. There was a question from Caroline Goodwin on funding of Beacon and whether it would come from membership subs. It was stated that it would be funded from our fundraising efforts and donations.

The annual cost is £1 per member, £177.00 was paid for the part year to end of January.

The long term wish of the Third age Trust is that it will be free.

8. Committee proposal to raise the subscription to £28.

Bob Williams outlined the proposal, saying that the committee felt that a modest annual increase was preferable to a larger one off increase in a couple of years. He noted that venue charges were going up for group activities but that it still represented very good value for members.

A member questioned the need for a rise in subscription as there was money on deposit. It was explained that it was a recommendation of the Charity Commission to hold in the region of a year's subscription as a reserve.

Proposed by the committee, seconded by Hilary Harrod agreed by a majority.

9. Vote of thanks to retiring Officers and committee members

All members of the committee stood down this year. Lesley made special mention and thanks for those on the committee who were retiring from office. Pat Harrod, Mervyn Knight, Margaret Ingles, Paul Lucas and Sylvia Roper. A small presentation was made to Margaret Ingles, who joined the committee in 2013 and had been membership secretary for some years. Her insight and experience would be missed.

10. Election of Officers and Committee members

The committee members left the stage and the retiring Chair introduced Ian Searle, a long standing member to introduce the election.

After a few words of introduction Ian introduced Lesley Parsons who was nominated as Chair. Lesley was re elected by majority show of hands.

The following officers were elected by majority show of hands in each case

Vice Chair Sue Hutt

Treasurer Jenny Fulleylove

General Secretary Gillian Davies

Membership Secretary Bob Williams

The following were elected by majority show of hands in each case: Patsy Ross, Lesley Vingoe, Ric Reilly and Mike Rogers.

11. Allow the Committee to appoint an Independent Examiner

Proposed by Mark Breach, seconded by Pat Harrod and agreed by the majority present.

The official business closed at 15.30

A proposal was made by Sue Swinchatt that Ian Searle be made Honorary president. Lesley explained that at present it would require a change of Constitution and would be discussed.

The Scottish Dance group, lead by Polly Barton had opened the meeting with a group of dances. A recently formed group, it was an opportunity to demonstrate their skills and was well received.

The Carrick Singers closed proceedings with a selection of their music, lead by their choir master, Richard Bailey. This was an opportunity to demonstrate their new music and was well received.