

## LOSTWITHIEL AREA U3A

### Minutes of 11<sup>th</sup> AGM

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 2pm in the Church Rooms, Lostwithiel**

**Attendees:** 30 members present  
2 non-members present

**Apologies:** Ruth Clench, Lydia Farley, Malcolm Heaven, Jenny MacDonald, Sheila Mackinder, Tony & Janice Richards, Annie Singer, Lindsay & Keith Southgate, Mary Wallace.

#### **Opening remarks from Chair**

David Platt listed some highlights of our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, promoting and growing our u3a.

We currently have 279 members.

David expressed grateful thanks to Anthony Hindley who was standing down from the Committee as Treasurer.

We are still looking for a Groups' Coordinator to work alongside Annie Singer and remain keen to give opportunity to showcase individual groups; Display Boards showing Groups and other activities are now in regular use. We will continue to promote what's happening in Lostwithiel with Community slots at Open Meetings and will again be represented at Lostwithiel Carnival Charity Day (4<sup>th</sup> August).

The Committee is open to representations on how improvements can be made, and David gave a recent example raised in connection with Capital Grants with a suggestion that Capital Grants could be considered to fund training and other support for Groups, rather than grants being restricted to defined "assets". David explained that when our u3a was set up, it was on the basis, outlined in the Constitution, of Groups being self-funding, which allowed annual membership fees to be kept low. David hoped u3a members would be supportive of retaining the status quo and general assent was accordingly received. (Subsequently Anthony Hindley raised under AOB the definition of Assets in context of Capital Grants; further clarification was provided. David confirmed that ultimately it was a decision for the Committee, who had agreed to keep things as they were).

David raised the importance of Gift Aid and asked members to consider if eligible; the extra funds generated makes a big difference and helps keep annual membership fees low.

David referred to the Beverage 'n Banter group, held on alternate months to our Open Meetings and a good way to meet other members, and an introduction for new joiners. Our u3a remains open to collaboration with other u3as, offering a wider range of experiences.

In terms of National u3a new and ongoing activities, a new portal has been launched which,

once members are registered, simplifies the annual membership renewal process. Members are encouraged to register, and support will be provided in the autumn in readiness for next year. "u3a Friends Extra" has been launched nationally, providing access to various discounts and benefits for u3a members. The first ever national u3a Festival is being held at York University, 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July 2024. "Fit for the Future" project is underway, looking to split the current national management structure to a Board and Council, with the aim of improving engagement with the membership.

David expressed thanks to Committee Members/Volunteers for giving freely of their time and skills, and thanked members for continuing to attend Open Meetings and participate in Groups. He asked members to continue to promote our u3a to friends/relatives.

New ideas for Groups were very welcome, and members were reminded that there is an open invitation to sit-in on committee meetings.

David completed his opening remarks by stressing the importance and value u3a contributes to "wellbeing".

**Adoption of Minutes from the 2023 AGM:** Minutes were agreed and adopted.

**Financial Overview- Presentation of Accounts for 2023 – 2024:** We currently hold a Balance Sheet total of c. £8,414 as at year ending 31/3/24, against £7,565 last year – an increase of £849. Gift Aid is in the process of being claimed - c.£1,323 expected for the last 2 years; previously £486 received. The increase in costs were due to additional Capitation amount as more members, increased Third Age Matters, Speaker fees and modest increases elsewhere. In terms of the breakdown of the total cash holding, the Bank Balance as of 31<sup>st</sup> March was £6,217, (£7,140 last year). Other cash held elsewhere (Groups Cash Accounts, PayPal, and Petty Cash) totalled £2,197 as of 31<sup>st</sup> March, compared with £425 last year.

The committee have set a minimum Reserve of £2,000 and propose an additional £500 reserve towards a future IT/website update.

The exceptional item "write off" (£323.89) itemised in the Accounts relates to the correction of an historic anomaly in Beacon.

Full examined Accounts for year ending 2023 – 2024 will be posted on our Lostwithiel Area u3a website on completion of oversight by our designated independent financial Accountant. Meanwhile, those present were asked if they were happy to accept the Accounts based on the draft accounts presented, which was agreed by all including the additional reserve for IT.

Richard Morgan (Chartered Accountant) is again proposed to examine the accounts for 2024 – 2025 and was approved to continue.

**Election of Officers and Committee**

Only one nomination was received for each of the committee roles. Voted and agreed by all.

The new committee is as follows:

- David Platt (Chair)
- Annie Singer (Vice Chair)
- Lalita Madhvani (new Treasurer elect)
- Liz Hemsley (Secretary)

Also Steph Thomas (Membership Secretary), Mark Hemsley (Publicity Officer), Karen Dickin (Speaker Finder), Sheila MacKinder, and Sandra Marten were appointed as committee members.

David noted that there was space for more members to join the committee without portfolio and interest in doing so would be most welcome.

### **Proposal to make some changes to our Constitution**

Purpose of proposed changes to improve flexibility of appointing and retaining our committee.

Proposed changes:

- Removing the requirement for a committee member to change role on committee with a break of at least 1 year
- Removing the advice note which says that members shouldn't be proposed for the committee if they are already serving on another u3a committee
- Clarification of the clause that says that u3as should have 4 officers on the committee (Chair/Vice-Chair/Secretary/Treasurer), allowing a u3a to operate with 3 officers (Chair/Treasurer/1 other).

Proposed changes approved.

### **Date of next Open Meeting: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2024**

- Speaker: Professor Kevin Channer
- In recent years a medical "expert witness" - reenacting an interesting case that he was involved in.
- Attendees of the meeting to be the jury!