AUGHTON and ORMSKIRK U3A

11TH Annual General Meeting

Thursday 8 May 2014 held at Christ Church Aughton

FORMAL AGENDA

- 1. Meeting opened by the Chairman Dorothy Harrison at 11.00 am.
- 2. Apologies for absence were read out.
- 3. Minutes of AGM 2013: Chairman asked for these to be accepted as a true record. Pauline Jones proposed that the minutes be accepted and were seconded by

4. Chairmans Report:

for their good work.

She named the leaders who have retired after 10 years service and pointed out that we now have 100 groups. Relating some of the highlights of 2013 she mentioned the litter pickup on market day; the Music in the Park; the 'Musical Making Waves', the 10th Anniversary Buffet evening; the new members afternoon tea; and the Group Leaders Buffet evening. Referring to the cancelled Mersey cruise she said we should try it again as so many were disappointed at its cancellation.

She stated that several Group Leaders had retired after 10 years and expressed gratitude

The problems around the Constitution had made it a very tough year for her and that it had caused disruption and bad feeling between the committee and the trustees. She described what had taken place to resolve the 'quorate' issue.

She reported that five committee members were retiring today and expressed our thanks to them and to the treasurer Chris Jones who also retires today..

Election of Nominees for the five committee vacancies

The Chirman invited the Nominees to come up on the rostrum and give a brief resume of their U3A experience. *Lily Bunner* stated that she had organised the Tea/coffee at Horizons for several years. *Bill Watkinson* has been involved with the digital camera group and taking care of the copiers. *Iain Smart*

Geoff Roberts who had sent his apologies for absence has been a roving photographer for U3A. Idris Wiliams

Pauline Jones proposed that their nominations be accepted seconded. There was an enquiry from the floor as to why Chris Jones Treasurer is standing down to which Dorothy explained that three members are standing down having completed their term of office and that two have resigned. The committee consists of 15 members. All the committee then cam forward to be seen by the members present in the church.

5. Treasurers Report. Chris Jones explained some items on the report which all present would have a copy. He drew attention to the substantial contributions from the efforts of Barbara Bonner on her bookstall and also to profits from the Coffee stall organised by Lily Bunner and her team at Horizon meetings. Thanks also to Bill Watkinson for his IT and to David Blanchflower who managed to retrieve half of the deposit from Liverpool Ferries following our cancellation of the Mersey Cruise last autumn due to low take up by members. Chris explained the increased expenditure was due to purchases of ipads, a copier and a Speaker Amplifier system. Also that rent of venues had increased.
On a positive note income from subscriptions was higher.

QUESTIONS FROM THE FLOOR to the Treasurer.

required.

Geoff Partington: with a turnover of £10,000 should we have a separate sheet for each Group? The treasurer stated that individual groups accounts are recorded and treated separately. Total proceeds are shown in the Balance sheet. The reserve of £20,000 had been held to provide cover for running expenses if

Sylvia Dillon: cannot accept the accounts because she stated that they should have been circulated some weeks before the AGM.

Chris replied that from 31 March to today 8 May is too short a period of time to accommodate this and that date of AGM would have to be later to achieve this. Bernie Handford proposed that the accounts be accepted; seconded by

Chris proposed that Mr B Molloy be appointed as independent examiner of the accounts was accepted. He also proposed that the subscription for 2015-16 remain at £15 which was agreed and carried.

Dorothy stated that the retirement of the Treasurer would be discussed at the first Committee meeting and a successor appointed. She then expressed our thanks to him and all the committee members who are retiring today. Nominations had been received for the vacancies and were invited to face the audience to give their names and a brief resume of their U3A experience. Pauline Jones proposed that their nominations should be accepted this was seconded by

Questions from the floor

There was an enquiry as to why Chris is standing down. The Chairman explained that three members are standing down having completed their terms of office and that two have resigned. The committee consists of 15 members.

In answer to a question from Colin Gray regarding wording of para 6.1 of the Constitution which implies that Officers had not yet been elected Geoff Maitland (past chairman) explained that this applies only to the first AGM and that it will be amended.

Motion 1

Proposed by Margaret Wiechers that the Minutes of the committee meetings should be placed on the website so that members know what is going on. Denis Morley endorsed this but said they should also be on the U3A Notice Board. This motion was carried by a large majority.

Motion 2:

Sue Watkinson proposed that a Trustee body be incorporated within the Constitution.

She commended the support and advice given already by existing Trustees and urged that we should move on with goodwill. Stan Bryan seconded it and a secret ballot took place resulting in the motion being carried by 170 to 51 votes.

Motion 3, put forward by Stan Bryan pointing out that the wishes of the membership about this important issue should be established and that we need a new Constitution in order to achieve this and urged that a working party including existing Trustees should construct a new Constitution and report to the AGM 2015. Central to its work should be the aims philosophy and ethos of our wonderful U3A.

By a show of hands this was carried by 132 votes with no dissentions.

The Vice-Chairman Bernie Handford expressed thanks to Dorothy for her hard work during a very demanding two years as Chairman. The members showed their appreciation by presenting her with a bouquet of flowers.

The meeting closed at 12.25.