**MINUTES OF THE 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK U3A**

**HELD ON 15th JUNE, 2017 AT CHRIST CHURCH, AUGHTON**

**1. WELCOME:** The Chairman, G Maitland , welcomed the 115 members present .He thanked everyone who had contributed to the success of the U3A Magazine and expressed his appreciation to all who had been involved in the preparations for the AGM with a special word of thanks to Alan Bonner and his team for assisting with the administration before and during the meeting. A new team will be required next year as Alan’s team will be taking a well-earned rest.

**2. APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were received from John Hardiker, Bill and Eileen Evans, George and Viv Russell, Iain and Ruth Smart, Katie and Graham Bill, Deirdre Slater, Alayne Trigwell, Mr and Mrs Roger Abel, Elaine Maitland.

**3. MINUTES OF THE 2016 AGM:** The Minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed by B Watkinson and Seconded by E Woolf. Carried, none against, one abstention.

**4. MATTERS ARISING:** There were no Matters Arising.

**5. TRUSTEES REPORT:** This report was presented by Jeff Roberts, Chair of the Trustees.

Jeff indicated this was a unique occasion as it was the first Trustees Report at an AGM. He explained the composition of the Trustees Body and their role. At their meetings, the major items discussed and minuted included the relationship of the Trustees with the Management Committee, traffic and ownership of “The Sands”, Insurance cover, Honorary Life President, First Aid and the change of Treasurer and the new accounting system. He pointed out that the Trustees were in the process of considering and developing the future strategy of the U3A. He explained that two Trustees will be standing down next year.

**6. CHAIRMAN’S ANNUAL REPORT:** The Chairman explained that his report had already been published in the magazine.

**7. SECRETARY’S REPORT:** The Chairman pointed out that this had already been circulated and had been published in the magazine.

**8. TREASURER’S REPORT:** The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Bill Watkinson. He explained the background to the introduction of the Beacon System and how it is used by the Membership Secretary for membership administration. Membership renewal is now possible on-line. The Beacon System is also used for U3A accounts. Bill praised the contribution made by Derrick Fewings in transferring the accounts on to the Beacon System.

Gerard Latham took over from Bill as Treasurer near the end of the 2016-17 financial year. Gerard has overseen changes in the presentation of the accounts.

Copies of the Accounts for the year ending 31st March had been circulated in advance of the AGM. They had been subject to an independent examination by JVSA.

Bill went through the Receipts and Payments Account in some detail and explained that discussion was currently taking place within Trustee Body, Management Committees and the F&R Sub-Committee about how best to deal with the large balances which exist.

He informed the meeting that the Theatre and Philharmonic accounts have been integrated into the Groups Account and that these two separate bank accounts had now been closed.

Bill provided an overview of his period as Treasurer. He thanked Group Leaders for paying in their money efficiently. He thanked Linda Griffiths, Deirdre Slater and Lesley Smith for helping him at Horizons. He thanked Derrick Fewings and the Finance and Resources Sub-Committee for their support and cooperation. He also thanked Barbara and Alan Bonner for all the work they had done on the Book Stall which had generated an income for the U3A. Finally, Bill thanked his wife Sue for her support, patience and encouragement during his time as Treasurer

**a. RESOLUTION 1.....APPROVAL OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR 2016-17:**

Proposed by Ted Morrell and seconded by Willem Wiechers. Carried unanimously.

**b. RESOLUTION 2......JVSA BE APPOINTED AS THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINERS OF THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR 2017-18:**

Proposed by Mia Faza and seconded by Ray Martin. Carried, none against, one abstention.

**9. RESOLUTION 3........SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2018-19 SHOULD REMAIN AT £15.**

The Chairman informed the meeting that, in his view, the appropriate level of reserves cannot be determined until there is a strategy in place. He, therefore, recommended that the subscriptions remain at £15.

Proposed by Roy Ault and seconded by Stan Bryan. Carried by a majority decision with four members voting against and one abstention.

**10. GENERAL MOTION 1........IT IS PROPOSEDTHAT MEMBERS OF AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK WHO REACH THE AGE OF NINETY AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH FINANCIAL YEAR BE OFFERED FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR LIFE.**

The resolution was presented and proposed by Margaret Gibbon. Margaret explained that the implementation of this resolution if accepted by the members would coincide with the fifteenth Anniversary of the U3A and the tenth Anniversary of the Queen’s Award for Voluntary and Community Service. The proposal was seconded by Marjorie Bryan.

The proposal was carried by a majority decision with two members voting against and four abstentions.

**11. GENERAL MOTION 2........THE TRUSTEES RECOMMEND AND PROPOSE, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION CLAUSE 8, THAT ALEX McMINN BE APPOINTED HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT OF AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK U3A. THIS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE IN EVERY YEAR OF OUR EXISTENCE.**

On behalf of the Trustees, Ted Morrell presented the proposal. He explained that Alex was the Founding Chairman and outlined the numerous initiatives which Alex had introduced over the years with his enormous enthusiasm and dedication. The motion was seconded by the Chairman who praised Alex’s drive in the formation of our U3A and his commitment over all of its fourteen years of existence.

The proposal was carried by a majority decision with one member voting against.

In accepting this award, Alex outlined the benefits of the U3A in helping to sustain well-being in later life. Our U3A has stature and civic credibility. He stressed how much support he had received from the early members of the U3A. He thanked Kath Mc Minn for all the support and encouragement she had given him He thanked the members for the award emphasising how gratified and flattered he felt.

On behalf of the members, Geoff Maitland congratulated Alex.

**12. ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.......NOMINEES:**

**PAUL ANDREWS; JANE ASTLES; ALAN STARKIE; MEGAN TOMLINSON; BRIAN YATES.**

The Chairman explained to the members that there were five nominees for four vacancies which necessitated a secret ballot. Members had received their ballot papers on arrival and were asked to cast their votes.

The five nominees were invited to stand to be identified to the members.

As the votes were being counted, the Chair decided to continue with the meeting.

**13. QUESTIONS/OPEN FORUM:**

There were no questions.

**14. CHAIRMAN OF TRUSTEES.........THANKS TO RETIRING MEMBERS OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: BILL WATKINSON, IAIN SMART, GEOFF ROBERTS.**

As Chair of the Trustees, Jeff Roberts thanked all three retiring members for their great contribution to the management and life of the U3A. He identified their individual roles on the Management Committee and on behalf of the Trustees and the members thanked them for their dedication and commitment.

Jeff thanked all members who had volunteered to take leadership roles over the years and all who contributed in any way to the great success of the U3A.

Geoff Maitland added his appreciation for the significant contribution made by Bill Watkinson as Treasurer and presented him with a gift on behalf of the members.

Geoff also referred to the commitment of Sue Watkinson to the U3A and recognised her role in supporting Bill as Treasurer. Geoff presented her with a bouquet of flowers.

Ian Grant, Vice-Chairman of the Management Committee, thanked all who made the effort to attend the AGM. He pointed out that the U3A succeeds or fails depending upon the degree of effort put in by members. He stressed that the Trustees and the Management Committee had blended well and changed the emphasis from a single Executive Committee into a successful combination of Trustees and Management Committee**.** This had required a lot of skill in getting people to work together and implement what the members wanted. Ian emphasised how big a part our retiring Chairman, Geoff Maitland, played in achieving this level of collaboration through his vision and commitment. On behalf of the Trustees, Management Committee and U3A members, Ian presented Geoff with a gift of wine.

Geoff Maitland thanked Ian and thanked all concerned for the gift. He mentioned and thanked Denise Latham who had retired from the Management Committee during the year. He explained that he retires from the Management Committee in October but completes his period as Chairman at the next Management Committee meeting.

At this point the results of the ballot to elect new members to the Management Committee were announced;

PAUL ANDREWS.....84 votes

JANE ASTLES......86 votes.

ALAN STARKIE.....108 votes.

MEGAN TOMLINSON......100 votes.

BRIAN YATES......69 votes.

The Chairman thanked all the nominees for putting their names forward. The nominees elected would attend and be welcomed at the next Management Committee meeting. He pointed out that the Management Committee could co-opt members in line with the Constitution if this was considered appropriate.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 12.12pm.

**DATE OF NEXT AGM**......The 2018 AGM will be on Thursday 14th June.