

MINUTES OF THE 6TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BEESTON U3A HELD
ON THURSDAY MAY 4TH 2017 AT BEESTON METHODIST CHURCH

1 Apologies: Eileen Parr, Di Fischer-Harmon, Helen Stewart, Sheila Foston, Jane Le Mottee, Sheila Bates and Chris Hibbert.

2 Welcome by the Chair: The Chair Sue Blackley welcomed the members to the meeting and a presentation was made to Karen in recognition of the help and support she has given us during the past year.

3 Minutes: These were taken as read and Haydn Boothroyd proposed and Anne Allery seconded the approval of the minutes, nem com.

4 Chairman's Report given by Sue Blackley: This was a full and detailed report of the U3A year 2016-17 and can be read in full on the Beeston U3A website.

5 Introduction of Accessibility Policy: Our Welfare Officer Anne Pinnock was unable to be present so Margot Gale gave a short talk on how this policy came about. Margot received a call from a member saying she would not be renewing her membership because she was unable to hear the talks etc. due to her failing hearing and not long afterwards Margot and Malcolm attended an Accessibility Workshop held at the U3A's National Conference at Nottingham University and the impetus to improve our accessibility came from those two incidents. A survey was carried out among our group leaders and members and a small working party was formed. After much discussion and research the following was decided

1 To ask all our speakers at the open meeting to stand right at the front of the stage and to use a microphone during the talks.

2 Meeter's and Greeter's will be issued with guidance sheets which will give advice on where the toilets are etc.

3 Off-site visits such as those taken by Art Gallery Visits members will be advised of disabled accessibility, what stairs there are and again where the toilets are.

4 There will be a small fund set up for carers of members who wish to go on day visits. Anne Pinnock will have the application forms and should be contacted where appropriate.

If members have any issues with regard to accessibility then again Abbe Pinnock will be the person to contact.

6 Treasurers Report: At the beginning of his report a member stood up and explained that the back row couldn't see or hear him so Malcolm went up on the stage and gave his report from there. He explained the

accounts in more detail. He took members through gift aid and encouraged those who did pay tax and hadn't gift aided it to us to do so and that it would not affect their tax status. He announced that the 2018/19 subscription would stay the same as this year. He also advised that because of the new Beacon system that was just implemented then we may have to buy new IT equipment. He then asked for questions and Mike Johnson asked about paying by direct debit for the membership as this could save time if not money. Malcolm agreed and said that this would be [possible through the Beacon system via PayPal and it would be considered during the coming year. Malcolm asked for the accounts to be adopted and this was seconded by Mike Johnson. The proposal was carried nem com.

7 To Appoint an Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2017/18: Malcolm told us that the accountant was a U3A member Eric Burdett who was happy to continue in the role and this was proposed by Malcolm Brookbanks and seconded by Ron Jones.

8 Amendment to Constitution: Sue explained that there needed to be a change to the charitable purposes section of our constitution so that we are in line with National U3A guidelines, and most other U3A's. It will now read:

The charitable purposes of The U3A are:

{i} to advance education and in particular the education of people not in full time gainful employment who are in their Third Age [being the period of time after the first age of childhood independence and the second age of full time employment and/or parental responsibility] residing in Beeston and its surrounding locality.

It was proposed by Sue Blackley and agreed by those present.

9 Election of Committee Posts for 2017-19:

Margot Gale Membership Secretary, proposed by Alison Wilson seconded by Jane Smith

Richard Eddleston Business Secretary, proposed by Peter Sadler and seconded by Irene Eddleston.

Malcolm Brookbanks Treasurer, proposed by Barbara Johnson and seconded by Anne Dubbury.

Breda Cooper, proposed by Tim Turner and seconded by Maria Turner.

Celia Billau Communication Officer, proposed by Felicity Harrison and seconded by Evelyn Gurd.

Jo Muxlow Social Treasurer, proposed by Haydn Boothroyd and seconded by Kath Childs.

Christine Chater Groups Coordinator, proposed by Hazel Brooke and seconded by Erica McKinnon.

10 Other Notified Business – none.

11 The meeting was closed at 11.13am.

Signed..... Dated.....