

MINUTES OF THE 7TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF BEESTON U3A HELD
ON THURSDAY MAY 3RD 2018 AT BEESTON METHODIST CHURCH

1 Apologies: J. & H. Boothroyd, S. Austin, R. Pickering, L. Cooper, J. Harris, L. & J. Delderfield, P. Hume-Spry, M. Taylor and M. Shipman-Taylor.

2 Welcome by the Chair: The Chair Sue Blackley welcomed 200 members to the meeting.

- Presentations were made to Karen and Mel who are very helpful MBC staff in recognition of the help and support they have given us during the past year.
- Sue introduced the committee to the members.
- Marie Potts who has resigned from the committee was thanked for all her hard work including setting up the newsletter and presented with a bouquet.

3 Minutes:

- These were taken as read and Mike Johnson proposed and Hazel Brooke seconded the approval of the minutes.

4 Chairman's Report given by Sue Blackley

- This was a full and detailed report of the U3A year 2017-18 and can be read on the Beeston U3A website and will appear in the June newsletter.

5 Treasurers Report:

- Before presenting his report Malcolm asked for a round of applause for Sue as a show of appreciation for all her hard work as chair.

Malcolm reported that since the circulation of the draft accounts the Independent examiner has completed his examination of them and certified them as an accurate record.

Malcolm referred to the brief explanation of how money had been spent and commented on certain aspects including:

- The amount of subscriptions which included associate members at a lower rate than £15
- The increase in subscriptions evident when money from the HMRC and payments to the Third Age Trust in 2017 were taken into account.
- Affiliation fees lower in 2017 as the year's fee to the Third Age Trust was paid in 2016.

- Beacon access was paid for the first time and will be a regular feature in the accounts as we contribute to the maintenance of Beacon.
- Contributions to equipment for groups is considered by the committee on the basis that it meets the aims of the U3A and subject to money being available. Applications to the Groups Co-ordinator as per the form in the Group Leaders pack. The budget for equipment in 2018/19 is £500.
- Expenses have been paid to a number of committee members for attendance at national and Network conferences/workshops. Members are reimbursed travel expenses as fares incurred or a mileage rate as set by HMRC
- Miscellaneous items are one off payments and the float is taken from this heading to meet requirements when members are renewing subscriptions.
- The new group start up grant pays for the initial meetings when new groups are set up or when a group is looking to re-establish itself under new leadership arrangements.
- The refreshments expenditure is now dedicated to the cost of open meeting refreshments. The cost of events for volunteers and group leaders now appears in the training heading.

Malcolm pointed to the trend in the accounts showing the receipts and payments levelling out but the committee still wishes to reduce the reserve and to do this had reduced the subscription for 2018/19 to £12. However, this is likely to be for one year only with subscriptions reverting to £15 in 2019/20.

In answer to a question at the last AGM about subscriptions being paid by Direct Debit Malcolm outlined the arrangements which would involve a charge and quite a lot of administrative work. The down side for members would be that they would need to collect their membership card at an open meeting instead of receiving it immediately.

Malcolm went on to pay tribute to the work done by Jo Muxlow in managing the Social Account and briefly commented on some aspects within these accounts.

In conclusion Malcolm outlined some changes which would appear next year as the group moves to fulfil new Charity Commission requirements in the presentation of accounts which will also necessitate a Trustees Report, replacing the Chairs report, and a written report from the independent accounts.

Finally Malcolm invited the acceptance of the accounts which was proposed by Anne Allery and seconded by Ron Jones.

6 To Appoint an Independent Examiner for 2018-19:

- The independent examiner will be Eric Burdett. Proposed by Malcolm Brookbanks and seconded by Kathy Shipway

7 Amendment to the Constitution:

Richard Eddleston explained the reasons for the amendment to the objects clause in the constitution as recommended by the Third Age Trust. This ensures that U3A insurance covers both educational and social activities/groups.

- The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.
- It was passed unanimously.

8 Election of Committee Posts for 2018-20:

- Speaker/Seeker Lucy Beardsley – proposed by Tim Thomas and seconded by Pat Thomson
- Publicity Officer Steve Austin – Proposed by Mike Johnson and seconded by A. Wilson
- Minutes Secretary – Elizabeth Le M. Brock – proposed by Janet Hault and seconded by Helen Stewart.
- Social Events Organiser Janis Patterson – proposed by Eve Gurd and seconded by Alan Windsor.

9 Other Notified Business: none

10 Close of Meeting: – 11.18am