

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING THE HARLINGTON, FLEET 20th November 2019 – 10.45am

### 1. Introduction:

The Chairman, Paddy Powell, welcomed members to the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the Fleet & District U3A. There were 290 members present, including the all committee members, retiring and prospective. Approximately 30 apologies had been received from members in advance of the meeting,

### 2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018:

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> October 2018 were available to the membership at the meeting and had also been made available on the Fleet U3A website. The Chairman asked for a proposal that the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of that meeting. The proposal was carried unanimously.

*Proposed: Denis Parkinson*

*Seconded: Mike Mellor*

### 3. Matters Arising:

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes, and these were signed by the Chairman.

### 4. Chairman's Report:

The chair thanked everyone for attending. She introduced the committee and explained the responsibility of being a trustee of Fleet and District U3A. She went on to report:

- The Third Age trust have changed the strapline under the U3A logo to 'Learn, Laugh, Live'
- There will be a U3A Day on June 3<sup>rd</sup> 2020.
- The Performing Arts evening to celebrate Fleet U3As 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was a great success, thanks to all involved
- The Performing Arts evening will be repeated every two years so the next will be in 2021
- Fleet U3A has signed up to Beacon, a secure data management system and this is already reducing workload
- Fleet U3A has become more inclusive this year with two new accessible groups, Strollers and Rollers
- The New Members' coffee mornings are now termly to ensure all new members are able to attend
- All general meetings are increasing in popularity, especially the Monthly speaker Meetings with the opportunity to meet friends over coffee beforehand
- Fleet U3A has 1905 members and is still growing

- There are currently 122 interest groups
- One member, Mike Brown, was invited to become a life-member of Fleet U3A for his contribution to teaching and encouraging Bridge over more than 20 years
- 10 new groups were formed this year
- Nine outgoing Group Leaders were thanked
- Individual Committee members and their roles were mentioned and thanked for all their work in making Fleet U3A such a success
- Three committee members were standing down at this AGM and presentations were made to those present. (Leigh Palmer, Mike Brown, Rod Marshall)
- Several new committee members were standing for election at this AGM
- The Enquiries Secretary role remains unfilled
- The Chair concluded by thanking all volunteers in our U3A

5. **To amend our constitution** – in order to bring our constitution in line with new Charity Commission requirements it is proposed to Update Clause 3 of our constitution, Charitable Purposes. The Charity Commission has agreed to make it as simple as possible for all U3As by allowing a blanket ‘opt-in’ to the new object clause shown below:

*‘The charity’s object is 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, in Fleet and District.’*

Paddy explained that some U3As have been running two “budgets” one “learning” and one “social” and not having them both properly examined each year. This arose from a misunderstanding of the U3A ethos. The Charity Commission will ignore past behaviour if all U3As adopt the new clause.

A member asked if Fleet U3A was allowed to change the charitable purpose clause as Clause 17 in our constitution forbids this action. Paddy explained that the Third Age Trust had negotiated with the Charity Commission on our behalf and all other U3As with a similar clause for a once only permission to change our charitable purpose in line with the recommendation. Paddy further reassured the members that documentary evidence of this permission was held on file.

This amendment was then put to the floor and carried unanimously.

*Proposed: John Gawthorpe  
Seconded: Sue Allman*

6. **To Receive and Approve the Treasurer’s Report for the Period of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2018 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2019:**

This is the first report presented by Neil Morley as Treasurer, it is also the first report generated through Beacon. There is £68,000 in the bank as of the date of the meeting, but there are invoices due to come in over next few weeks so this will take the balance down.

There have been problems with HRMC re Gift Aid so this does not appear in the accounts for this year, two refunds should therefore be appearing in next years’ accounts.

A member from the audience asked about what was missing on the line on Equipment and Supplies (not .... - Neil responded that the word missing was Capex standing for Capital Expenditure.

The approval of final examined accounts was carried unanimously.

*Proposed: Michael Jones*

*Seconded: Caroline Noad*

7. **Resolution 1** – to elect the Committee members and Officers for 2019-2020

The list of proposed Committee Members and Officers had been made available to the meeting.

Officers elected unanimously were:

Chair: Paddy Powell

Secretary: Alan Jones

Treasurer: Neil Morley

Members elected unanimously were: Carol Howlett, John Gawthorpe, Fiona Godfrey, Jenny Teagle, Sandy Redman, Chris Porter, Stephen Grosvenor and Barbara Jones.

*Proposed: Peter Histon*

*Seconded: Diane Eddy*

8. **Resolution 2** – to appoint the Accounts Examiner for the forthcoming year

Paddy thanked Kenneth James for examining the accounts this year and also for agreeing to do it again next year. Kenneth was presented with a bottle of wine as a thank you. The resolution was carried unanimously.

*Proposed: John Gawthorpe*

*Seconded: Sandy Redman*

9. **Any Other Business**

Paddy explained that 2019/2020 would be her final year as Chairman and also that the position of Vice-Chairman is still vacant. If any member would be willing to come forward Paddy asked the members to think about it and get back to her.

Mike Brown, Events Secretary, and Leigh Palmer, Groups Liaison Secretary were presented with a bottle of wine as a token of appreciation as they were retiring from the Committee after many years' service.

35 copies of a 10 yearly anonymous survey which had been commissioned by the Third Age Trust were handed out to members to complete and return.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.25am.

*Signed*.....

*Date*.....