

HALESWORTH & DISTRICT u3a

Minutes of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 15th October 2024 at The Cut

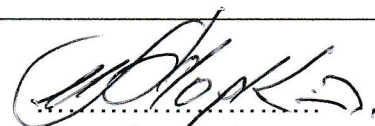
Present: 89 Members, including committee members: Malcolm Ballantine, Sharon Collins (minutes), Jill Daines, Jo Dorey, Monica Edmonds (Chairwoman), Michael Fleming, Melita Rouse-Skeet and Cornelia Topping. Approximately 22 guests were also in attendance.

1.	<u>WELCOMES AND OPENING REMARKS:</u>
	The Chairman welcomed those present and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
2.	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u>
	Apologies for absence were received from Committee member John Treadway and a number of members.
3.	<u>MINUTES & MATTERS ARISING</u>
	The minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting had been circulated and were confirmed as a true report and signed by the Chairwoman (copy in Minute Book). Matters Arising: There were no matters arising from the minutes.
4.	<u>CHAIRWOMAN'S REPORT:</u>
	The Chairwoman's report had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). Monica highlighted key points as follows: • Membership: There has been a welcome rise in membership again this year, with over 100 new members joining in the past 18 months. • Charity Registration: The increase in our membership and the consequent increase in income means that we are now required to apply for formal registration with the Charity Commission, and work on this is ongoing. Some of the advantages of becoming a registered charity are that we will be in a position to claim gift aid on membership subscriptions and will also be able to introduce card payments for the convenience of members. • New website: This year our webmaster Nick Amery has worked with the Third Age Trust IT team to deliver a new-look web site for us. We are

	immensely grateful to Nick for the time he has given to our u3a to ensure that our face to the world is modern and attractive. • Interest groups and activities: Thanks to enthusiastic volunteers we have been able to introduce several new activities during the year, including Art Appreciation, Drawing for the Terrified and Bowls. In July we held a summer get-together to thank our group coordinators for the work they do to support our u3a by keeping our wide range of interest groups going. Our annual coach trip to Munnings Art Museum was well received and proved an enjoyable day out. Thanks to Melita we have also enjoyed a very varied and interesting programme of Tuesday talks. • Goodbyes and thank yous: This year a number of committee members and group coordinators are stepping down and we are grateful for their contribution. Particular thanks go to Sheryl Meldrum who set up and ran the Table Tennis Group, Katherine Kirk who moderated the discussion group as well as serving as our Vice Chair, Malcolm Ballentine who has completed his term of office but will nevertheless continue to manage our IT equipment ex officio, and to Karen Lewis who is standing down as treasurer having very ably used her tenure to lead on modernising our processes and bringing appropriate rigour to our finances.
5.	<u>ACCOUNTS & APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL EXAMINER</u>
	The accounts for the 2023-2024 financial year had been circulated (copy in Minute Book) and were approved by the meeting nem con. The Chairwoman thanked David Gardam for examining the organisation's accounts and confirming their accuracy, and also for his years of service as our external examiner. As David had now decided to step down from the role, the meeting approved the appointment of Colin Pocknell as External Examiner for the forthcoming year.
6.	<u>PROPOSAL TO ADOPT A REVISED CONSTITUTION</u>
	The Secretary reminded members that our u3a has now reached the size where we are required to apply to the Charity Commission to become a registered charity. She explained that to make the application process as straightforward as possible, the Third Age Trust (the national u3a umbrella body) has agreed a standard constitution which will be accepted by the Charity Commission without the need for further negotiation with individual u3as. Therefore, to avoid unnecessary complications, the committee would like to bring our current constitution into line with the national standard constitution. She added that although the proposed new constitution is more formally worded than our u3a's current constitution, there is very little variation in its actual provisions. Consequently the Executive Committee feels that in practice these changes will make very little difference and should cause our u3a no difficulties.

	On behalf of the Executive Committee the Chairwoman proposed that the revised constitution be adopted by the AGM. This was unanimously agreed by the members present.
7.	<u>ELECTION OF COMMITTEE FOR 2024/25</u>
	Details of those nominated for election to the Executive Committee had been circulated (copy in Minute Book). The Chairwoman reported that Martin Sparks had also been nominated for election, proposed by herself and seconded by Sharon Collins, The following were unanimously elected: Sharon Collins, Jill Daines, Rachael de Sousa, Joanna Dorey, Monica Edmonds, Michael Fleming, Vic Hopkins, Melita Rouse-Skeet, Martin Sparks, Cornelia Topping and John Treadway.
8.	<u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u>
	There was no other business.
9	<u>CLOSING REMARKS</u>
	The Chairwoman thanked those present for attending the AGM, and Christine Gardam thanked the committee members for their work on the organisation's behalf during the past year.
	The AGM was followed by a talk by Stuart Burgess on the Duplex tanks use in WW2.

Signed



Date

21/10/25