

Minutes of BANBRIDGE & DISTRICT U3A AGM MEETING
Tuesday 18th April 2023
Bannside Presbyterian Church Hall

1 PRESENT

There were 33 Members in attendance

2 Apologies

Pat Hanna, Emily Gardner, Margaret Campbell. Margaret Murphy, Peter Kearns, Mary McClean, Wendy Roper, Sharon Henry

3 Welcome from the Chairperson

Veronica explained that the Speaker had been unable to come. She welcomed Mavis Turner to conduct the AGM.

Since Covid an AGM had been held outside in Solitude Park and then in the football club but we are now back to normal in a venue which we hope is for the long term.

4 Minutes of previous AGM were read by Florence and approved.

5 FINANCIAL REPORT

Copies were provided for those present. Adrian noted that the Financial Report was very healthy, currently inflated by some double Membership dues paid twice within the same financial year. U3A third age Trust costs had been increased and Bank charges doubled because of using a new Bank. Santander just couldn't handle a Charity A/c. Took a year to close the old A/c and it took a Solicitor's letter to force closure. Warning - be wary of using a Bank which can handle such an A/c.

Our meeting venue had to be changed to a much-improved Bannside Hall at £37.50 per session.

Main expenditure had been subsidised by £270 for Killyleagh outing, guide and Castle tour and costs of food for our Christmas meeting.

The Charity Commission now requires annual reports on activities and finance. Having done it successfully this year hopefully we have a template for future years.

Ken Barrett queried whether the group was covered for Third Party Insurance. This was confirmed.

6 Chairperson's Report

All monthly meetings had been held in the new venue including the successful Christmas party. 40 Members usually attend the meetings and now more since the Covid pandemic. 91 out of 108 Membership are paid up to date.

The Killyleagh outing had been very successful. This year we are to visit Lissan House near Cookstown. The cost of the house tour will be covered by the U3A group. On arrival scones and tea/coffee will cost £5 per head. Glenavon Hotel was booked for lunch and individuals will pay directly. Car share will be the mode of transport. Details to be finalised at the May meeting with approximately 30 going on outing.

Committee Meetings have resumed at the Tesco Community Room. Craft group with Anne Lavery has a waiting list for attendees.

Singing group has not resumed as no Musical Director is available.

The Treasurer was congratulated on his work for the reports 2021/2 for Charity commission. Mavis Turner had helped with the requirements.

7 COMMITTEE standing down

Jill Noble has been nominated as new Treasurer as Adrian wished to stand down.

Veronica stated that it was good to have a fresh Committee with younger folks taking office.

Mavis Turner then conducted the AGM. She was delighted to see the new venue, everything was perfect.

Committee and Office Bearers stood down.

Full approval of main Officers - Veronica Barrett as Chairperson, Keith Roper as Membership Secretary, Sharon Henry as Secretary.
All approved Jill as new Treasurer. Other Members as read out were approved by the audience.

Mavis went on to talk about the commencement of the Banbridge U3A with a small meeting in the local Library. Then there was a public meeting.
Committee members play a vital role. There are 800 members in Belfast and new folks on the Committee must learn. U3A Trust has a local website, but few admitted to looking at it. U3A Trust HQ needs to know when officials are changed in branches.

Trustees have responsibilities and need to work closely with the Charity Commission.
Interest groups - a person in Belfast group is responsible for all monthly speakers shown on the Website.

Mavis suggested talks on the murder of Patricia Curran in the early 1950's Clive Scoular on the theft of the Irish Crown Jewels. The sinking of the Princess Victoria in 1953.
By the end of March yearly subs must be paid otherwise it compromises Insurance cover, and Magazine.

Bank experiences - taking 6-months to change Bank - a daunting experience. She mentioned the cost of Belfast venues as £15 per hour in Community Halls but had to admit Bannside hall was superb.

Interest groups are the lifeblood of the Organisation, other groups to consider -

*Poetry group

*Scientific group - daunting title, discussion of solar power, earthquakes etc.

*Myths and Legends a possibility.

*Bridge group - consider starting one of these.

Perhaps look at other U3a groups to see what they are doing.

Folks are allowed to come for a couple of weeks, free, to try out meetings

Mavis has travelled all over the province on U3a business. She offered to help on any subject or on Committee Meetings.

She was pleased that the Banbridge group now had Charity Commission member status.



The meeting concluded with Veronica advising of the 9th May talk given by a representative of the USPCA.

She reminded members of the day trip on 13th June 2023 to Lissan House.

There are no group meetings over the summer and meetings will recommence September.

Chairperson: -----
Veronica Barrett

Date:

Acting Secretary: -----
Florence Chambers

Date: