LANARK AND DISTRICT u3a – Minutes of AGM 19th May 2021 (held on Zoom)

**Minute of Virtual AGM: Wednesday 19th May 2021**

Present: Margaret Dunlop, Jim Allan, Liz Weston, Harry Jamieson, Irene McDougall, George McDougall, Rosalynn Moynagh, Robin Lee, Nelson Waters, Ken Liddell, Elizabeth McLachlan, Jean Barr, Claire Brown, Neil Gainford, Siobhan Gainford, Alistair Mackie, Lesley Gair, Helen Davidson, Barbara Mackie, Chloe Bennett, Nick Bennett, Cary Jones, Elizabeth McLachlan, Elizabeth Bryson

Apologies: Eileen Gibson, Tom Gallagher, Barbara Waters, Jennifer Crawford, Dorothy Duncan, Patricia Kellas, Maureen Anning, John Anning, Brian McInally, Kay McInally, Jane Johnstone, Jean Durie, Anne Armstrong, Elizabeth Tollan and Joan Davidson.

Margaret welcomed everyone to the AGM. Margaret asked Jim to explain the AGM paperwork sent out.

Jim Allan explained that AGM paperwork comprising the initial request for Nominees to Committee, Constitution Amendments and Motions had been sent out prior to this meeting. Nomination request to join the committee were received however there was nothing returned for Constitution Amendments and Motions. Further documentation sent out to members was the Minute of November 2020 AGM, Copy of Accounts for 2020/21, Treasurer’s Report, Consolidated Committee Nominations, and return forms (voting form) acknowledging agreement/disagreement of the documentation and asking to indicate attendance at the AGM. 30 completed voting forms were received from members. All completed returns forms (voting form), agreed that the documentation issued had been accepted by the members. 15 people stated their intention to attend the AGM and 15 members were unable to attend.

Of the 24 people present on the Zoom meeting, 12 members had not returned the paperwork and indicated their agreement of the AGM Minute 2020, Treasurer’s Report and Committee Nominations. Total in agreement 42.

The minute of the AGM held in November 2020 was approved.

# Chair’s Report

Margaret explained that this meeting was being held in line with the normal timetable, in an effort to bring things back to the normal running of events in the u3a year.

Margaret advised that following the concerns raised at the Open Forum meeting held, after the AGM, in November regarding the Trust’s staffing levels and increase to subscription charges, a letter had been sent to the Trust voicing these concerns. A reply had been received highlighting they were to delay the increase in subscriptions. Margaret said she had since heard that there had been redundancies in an effort to cut costs. Margaret said that other u3a groups had also voiced their concerns and said she felt that the Trust had taken on board these issues and now appeared to be being cautious and vigilant about their expenditure.

Various suggestions had been made at the Open Forum about possible events, which were taken on board by the Committee and subsequently, Chit Chat, Murder Mystery and Quiz events had all been introduced.

Christmas & Easter e-cards had been sent to all members and normal cards sent by post to members who did not wish to be communicated with electronically or had no internet access.

Newsletters had been sent regularly and cards sent to members in cases of bereavement or ill health.

Tom Gallagher had prepared a Zoom Guidance leaflet which had been sent to members

The virtual Christmas Party had been a great success and was followed, in January, by a Scottish Afternoon, which despite being beset by technical issues, had proved to be good entertainment.

Margaret advised that the membership was, at present, 155 which was down 100 from before Covid. Margaret expressed her disappointment about this and advised that Biggar/Hamilton and East Kilbride had seen no reduction to their membership. Margaret said she hope this was only temporary, due to Covid, and members would return when meetings returned to being held normally. Margaret encouraged everyone to spread the word about the u3a to friends and neighbours.

Margaret advised that Robin Lee had been responsible for our u3a website for the last 10 years and by comparison ours was superior to most other groups’ websites. Robin had decided to step down from this role and Margaret expressed her sincere gratitude to him for all his work in maintaining, updating and the general smooth running of the website over that time. Tom Gallagher had taken over this role and was building a new website, which would be ready to launch in September.

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The Christmas lunch has been booked for 16th December at the New Lanark Mill Hotel.

It was intended to hold celebrations for our 10th Anniversary but this has been postponed until 16th February 2022 to allow for things to settle down after Covid when hopefully members would feel more comfortable about meeting in public. The

celebrations would take the form of an afternoon tea with guest speakers and this would mean there would be no Scottish Afternoon in January.

Margaret stressed the need for new committee members as two of our committee were standing down in December, one of whom was the Treasurer, which was the most vital role on the committee and a replacement would need to be in place by the end of the year. Margaret said that basic bookkeeping skills were required to be the Treasurer and asked if anyone knew of anyone that was suitable. She urged members to give some thought to becoming a committee member, as several more members would be finished their committee service in May 2022, leaving just 5 on the committee. The u3a ethos was “by the members for the members” and new blood was needed to ensure the ongoing running of the group.

Margaret expressed her gratitude to all the Group Leaders who had adapted to new ways of working throughout the Covid crisis. She also thanked Loraine who co-ordinates the groups and has taken on the running of some of the groups herself.

Margaret also gave her thanks to Irene, Jim and Jan for their work on the Newletter and Publicity.

Particular thanks was given to Jim for all his work organising all the Zoom meetings (over 100) and also all the AGM paperwork for which Jim puts in an enormous amount of work, pre-empting issues to ensure the smooth running of all meetings and, in particular, the AGMs.

Margaret expressed her gratitude to the committee for all their support.

Margaret said that hopefully, by September, we will be able to have General Meetings in the Memorial Hall and she wished everyone a happy and safe summer. A copy of Margaret’s chair report would be sent to all members, following the AGM, so that all members could see its content.

Liz thanked Margaret for all her hard work during this difficult time and said that everyone on the committee was appreciative of Margaret’s time and effort.

**Treasurer’s Report for the year accounts to 31st March 2020.**

Approval of accounts was proposed by Ken Liddell and seconded by Loraine Swan.

 **Committee /Election of members**

Proposed by Liz Weston and seconded by Cary Jones.

**Amendments to Constitution**

Amendment 1 (changes 1-4) to include the use of Zoom for meetings when applicable.

Amendment 2 Amend the percentage required at AGM from 15% to 10%

These amendments had been agreed by 30 members via the voting forms sent out and 12 people present at the meeting who had not returned forms were also in agreement making total of 42.

# AOCB

Ken asked if a survey had been carried out of members who had not re-joined. Harry said that the majority who had not renewed had said it was because of Covid. Discussion took place about other reasons such as people who do not like Zoom or some who may not have thought anything would have been happening. Margaret advised that members who had not renewed had been e-mailed with the events taking place but there had been no reaction. In discussion, the question of members’ loyalty and allegiance to a group, they enjoyed, was raised.

Ken asked if Zoom would still be an option when face to face meetings recommenced. Margaret explained that this was under consideration. Some meetings may only require a laptop but the General Meetings would have to be done in conjunction with the Memorial Hall and equipment required would need to be investigated. Margaret said that the u3a Trust was encouraging so called hybrid meetings and felt that the u3a should now be two- dimensional.

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Other suggestions were that a public Facebook page be set up. Jim explained that presently we had a Lanark & District Facebook Group for members only but a public page could be investigated. The issue of safety was raised and members’ consent would need to be sought. Information was posted regularly on several local Facebook pages.

The question of Mirthy talks was raised and Margaret advised that they were free and information had been circulated to members. ‘Virtual Tour’ information had also been sent out, which is now called ‘Heygo’.

It was hoped the quizzes may be held again in the autumn.

Coffee club in the Clydesdale was suggested for people who would not be going away for the summer. Covid guidelines would apply. The suggestion of a picnic was also made.

Book club, circle dancing (outside), Croquet, Gardening and cycling groups had either started or were in the process of starting back. Loraine advised there was a lunch planned for June for which details would be sent out.

As there was no other business Margaret thanked everyone for their attendance.

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