<u>Minutes of Saltash u3a AGM 13.11.2025</u>

The AGM held in the Wesley Church, Saltash commenced at 1535.

Present: 78 Members were present including all the Executive Committee.

Chair's Welcome: The Chair Amanda Smith welcomed all present in accordance with the Saltash u3a Constitution and the Charities Commission regulations.

Apologies had been received from the following members: Mave Landman, Susan Jones, Pauline Rodea, Judy Bradley, Geoff Pegs, Bill Pym and Liz Hill.

Minutes of AGM 14.11.2024. All members in accordance with the Constitution, had received the Minutes of the previous AGM in advance of the meeting. The Chair asked those present if they were happy for her not to read them out. This was agreed so members were asked if there were any questions arising from the Minutes. As there were none, their acceptance as accurate was proposed by Christine Jenkins and seconded by Jean Buckingham. The Chair signed them as accepted.

Chair's Report for period September 2024– August 20235

The Chair Amanda Smith was pleased to report that Saltash u3a had had another full and active year.

Amanda reported that for a u3a of our size we have numerous and varied groups open to all members and run on the ethos of 'By members for members'. There is something for everyone and there is always room for more with expertise available to guide and support a new set up. Groups have continued to thrive with some unfortunately having to introduce waiting lists due to their popularity. This was not an ideal situation but in the absence of another member stepping forward to run a second group there was no alternative. One group is already in this position only nine months since it was launched. On behalf of all members Amanda wished to record her thanks to the Group Leaders who have stepped forward to lead in so many different genres. She emphasised that without them there would be no Saltash u3a.

Trips and visits throughout the year have been well supported by members. Notable visits have been to The Royal Citadel, The Maritime Museum for a talk on the history of Devonport Dockyard and a behind the scenes tour of the Theatre Royal Plymouth.

Membership numbers had remained constant this year, currently just short of 300 which is a comfortable number for us to manage. However, at National level there is a push to increase membership across all u3as. Whilst all are welcome Amanda expressed concern that if numbers were to increase dramatically, we would not be able to meet the requirement to accommodate everyone in the same venue. This matter and ways around the problem had been discussed by the Executive Committee.

Despite rises in the cost of living, Amanda reported that mindful of how members' money is spent the Executive Committee explores all avenues of expenditure and in many cases, costs are kept down due to their hard work behind the scenes. She wished on behalf of the members to thank the Committee.

During the year Amanda has represented Saltash u3a at a new national group called 'Chairs Forum'. 400 plus Chairs from u3as as diverse as those with 40 members to those with 1000 members took up the offer to meet once a month via zoom. Whilst a few pearls of wisdom have been gained Amanda feels very proud of Saltash u3a as many of the issues raised have already been encountered by us, worked through and solutions found, often several years ago. Listening to other Chairs has made her appreciate that a more simplistic view rather than overthinking things has made her appreciate how lucky she is to be part of Saltash u3a. When updating the Executive Committee, Amanda stated that she has often expressed how forward thinking we are in Saltash and this comes from the membership, Group leaders and the Committee members.

Finally, Amanda stressed how important it was to realise that we can only maintain a positive and dynamic u3a with members putting themselves forward to join the Executive Committee or lead groups. Nationally it was recognised across all organisations that those willing to volunteer in any capacity is falling significantly and we must not let this happen to Saltash u3a. She called for those amongst us who keep their talents and knowledge hidden, to come out of the shadows and share with us all in whatever capacity.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Sue Martin and seconded by Carolyn Wakeman.

Amanda ended by thanking everyone present for their attention.

Financial Report August 2024 – July 2025. The Treasurer Peter Payne-Hanlon began by reminding everyone of the problems caused by the Beacon Accounting System last year and was pleased to say that no such difficulties had arisen this year when consolidating the accounts.

All four accounts, the inventory of equipment and cash held had been examined by Ann Kelly a non-committee member and were declared in good order. The financial statement had then been emailed to all members on the 13th October with a request that any questions raised be notified in time for Peter to respond before the AGM. No questions had been raised.

Peter explained that the Main Account and Savings Account were inextricably linked as in December with the agreement of the Executive Committee he had transferred £7,000.00 from the Main Account to the Savings Account to take advantage of the interest available. This had resulted in £69.00 interest earned. In April this year he had needed to transfer £2,000.00 back.

1. The reconciliation of the Main and Savings Accounts, the cash held and the equipment owned by the u3a less the liabilities owed as of 31st July when the accounts closed, shows total assets of £8,516.60. Compared to the previous year this is a deficit of £242.31 but was not unexpected considering the rising costs experienced over the year. Peter stated that with healthy cash assets of £8,163.19 Saltash u3a is well able to absorb this deficit this year.
2. The Social Account less liabilities stood at £747.50.
3. The External Funding Account stood at £1,298.57.
4. The Business Premium Account stood at £6,071.44.

Peter stated that he could see no reason at the current time to propose any changes in the Membership Fees. The situation will continue to be monitored, and should a serious downturn occur, it may be necessary to hold an Emergency AGM to discuss the matter further.

Peter then asked members to imagine the work involved in keeping the accounts for an organisation of 280+ members with 27 active groups and repeated a request he had made last year. He asked members to avoid the considerable extra workload generated when:

1. Members make BACS payments into the wrong accounts. Membership fees needed to be paid into the Main account; Transport and entrance fees for visits, paid into the Social Account.
2. Members have made Standing Orders which are incorrect. Together with the Membership Secretary once again they dealt with five underpayments and one overpayment this year. Peter asked members to please check that their Standing Orders are correct.
3. Peter asked that if paying as a couple by whatever means, to please provide the names of both parties in the reference.

Lastly, Peter wished to make it clear that he did not become involved in Group Finances which must be managed by the Group themselves.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Mo Kent and seconded by Keith Morris.

There was a show of hands accepting Ann Kelly as the inspector of the accounts again next year. The Chair then presented Ann with a Gift Card as an appreciation of her hard work.

Election of Executive Committee for 2025-26

Standing down from the Committee was Dee De Beaufort. The Chair thanked her for her hard work.

Standing for re-election for one further year were: Amanda Smith, Barry Olver, Rose Olver, Peter Payne-Hanlon, Jason Lamb, Rob Jenkins, Ray Williams, Trevor Earl, Rosemary Nankervis, Chris Masterson and Sue Pym. Members voted on block to support their re-election.

Two new members were elected: Lynn Parker and Sue Matheron. Sue had unfortunately been called away unexpectedly prior to the vote.

The Chair informed members that there remained three vacancies for co-opted positions and should anyone wish to consider coming forward she would be happy to speak to them.

There was one question from the floor. Shirley Scott enquired as to who was Vice Chair. Amanda explained that Dee de Beaufort who had stood down had held this position and in line with the Constitution, roles within the Executive Committee were allocated at the first committee meeting held after the AGM.

On completion of the voting the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance.

On behalf of all the members Jennifer Morley then thanked the Chair and the Committee for their much appreciated, hard work.

The AGM closed at 1550.

Sue Pym - Minute Secretary.