

**2022 Annual General Meeting**  
**Yorkshire and Humber Region u3a**  
**St. George's Conference Centre, Leeds**  
**10:30 am. 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022**

**Draft minutes**

Welcome and commencement of meeting.

Chairman, Mick Richings, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for attending.

**PRESENT:** Mick Richings (Chairman), Pat Collard (Vice Chair), Angie Grain (Events Coordinator), Nick David (Speaker Directory), Hugh Bevington (MT member), Helen Leech (PR Adviser), Margaret Fiddes (Trustee for Yorkshire and the Humber), Hazel Ward (Secretary), Sue Stokes (Barnsley), Maureen Grace (Bradford), Helena Trudhope (Craven + District) Stella Barclay (Harrogate), Angela Hutchinson (Leeds), Les Chandler (Settle), Lorna Pope, Alex Svenson, Pat Thompson (Sherburn + Villages), Patricia Dixon (Thirsk + Sowerby).

1. **APOLOGIES.** Samina Aslam, Brian Cave (Sheffield), Trevor Barrowcliffe (Whitby Whaler), Pauline Kermodé (Caves), Lesley Robinson (Easingwold), Helen Billington (Selby + District), Beryl Pemberton (Ilkley), Clair Stones (Whitby Whaler), Sue Tong (Cottingham), Heather Turner Treasurer, (Caves u3a).

2. **To receive and approve draft minutes of the AGM held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021.**

These had been circulated in advance and were available to view on website. It was agreed and accepted that these were a true record.

Proposer: Angela Hutchinson

Seconder: Les Chandler.

3. **There were no matters arising.**

4. **To receive and approve the draft minutes of the SGM held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021.**

The purpose of this meeting was the adoption of the Model Network Constitution. It had been accepted by the Trust, giving YAHR access to funding and the use of the u3a logo. It was agreed that these minutes were a true record and were duly accepted.

Proposer: Pat Collard.

Seconder: Nick David

5. **There were no matters arising.**

6. **To receive and approve the Chair's Annual Report.**

The report had been circulated in advance. Mick Richings reported that after being in office for three and a half years he was now sadly stepping down. He thanked the past and present members of the Management Team for their support, without which his role would have been more difficult, particularly during the last two years of Covid, plus the Omicron variant. He also thanked Treasurer, Heather Turner, for her work on the Constitution. We are now able to apply for charitable status which is still to be confirmed. During lockdown the focus of YAHR had been to support u3as in whichever way possible, mainly by promoting the use of virtual platforms. With the end of restrictions hopefully in sight, the attention of the Management

Team is now returning to in-venue activities. Since the last AGM new members have been welcomed and co-opted to the Management Team: and have taken on the following roles: Heather Turner (Treasurer), Nick David (Speaker Directory), Brian Cave (Regional Network representative who is working toward establishing a new network in our region). We say farewell to Samina Aslam and Beryl Pemberton as well as myself at this AGM. Samina will continue to oversee this year's Summer School and I will take over the role of Beacon Manager. Beryl has been a member of the Management Team since 2019 and until recently was Speaker Finder. My massive thanks to all who have done such unstinting work on behalf of YAHR.

As well as the Residential Summer Break with Learning which will go ahead from 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> July, the following events and workshops have taken place during the past year:

**May 2021: Retention and Recruitment. Virtual workshop**

September 2021: Captain Cook Experience, organised by Whitby Whaler u3a, was held over three days. This went ahead in September 2021 after being postponed several times and was attended by u3a members from around the region. Thanks go to Trevor Barrowcliffe and his team for organising such an enjoyable and successful event.

**November: Diversity and Inclusion. Workshop in venue and by Zoom.**

**March 2022: Yorkshire Forum hybrid meeting in York.** Unfortunately, Liz Thackray TAT Chairman, was unable to be present in person as planned due to an accident. However thanks to Frank Bailey and Nick David she was able to appear via Zoom to begin the day's proceedings. Thanks also go to Angie Grain who put together all the slides and presentations for the Forum as well as chairing the whole proceedings.

**April 2022: Running your u3a workshop.**

The next workshop being planned will be the Treasurers' workshop in June. This will be attended by Derek Harwood, TAT Treasurer.

The YAHR newsletter which contains not only YAHR information but also activities from around the region is expected to be ready for circulation by the end of May, thanks to editor, Trevor Barrowcliffe, and Helen Leech, our Publicity Relations Adviser.

The registration of the YAHR website has been changed so that it is now owned by YAHR. Massive thanks go to Doug Hirst for his work in developing the website and to Frank Bailey, National Lead for Beacon, for giving us a fully functioning BEACON database which will improve communications within YAHR and among our u3as.

Finally I would like to thank all the YAHR Management Team for their input during what have been difficult times whilst still being active within their own u3as. Thank you.

**7. To receive and approve the Treasurer's Annual Report.**

In the absence of the Treasurer, the Chairman led the presentation of the accounts which had been circulated on May 1<sup>st</sup> to all the Management Team and agreed and accepted as a true record at the Team meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The unusual circumstances caused by the pandemic were noted, as was the expenditure for the year which exceeded the income, the expenditure on the Captain Cook Event in September 2021 with the income for the event having been recorded and reported on in the two previous years. There was much discussion around the issues raised in the report regarding YAHR's financial reserves, Management Team travelling expenses incurred by members attending

YAHR meetings, where funding could be acquired and the financial arrangements between the Third Age Trust and YAHR.

The Chair, Mick Richings, assured the meeting that these issues were understood and had been discussed at length at the previous Management Team Meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> where they were agreed. Vice Chair, Pat Collard, confirmed that the finances would continue to be closely monitored during the coming year. The attendees expressed confidence in the Management Team to deal with the issues raised.

A vote was taken and it was agreed to accept the Annual Financial Report which has been accepted by the Independent Financial Adviser, Colonel (retired) John Goodsir, CBE.

Proposer: Les Chandler

Secunder: Angela Hutchinson

Mick Richings thanked Col. John Goodsir for his work in examining the accounts.

#### **8. Election of Officers and Management Team.**

Pat Collard of Cottingham u3a was nominated to take on the role of Chairman. The nomination was proposed by Sue Tong and seconded by Janet Hardman of Hornsea u3a.

Brian Cave of Sheffield u3a had been nominated to continue as Networks Manager by Samina Aslam and Philip Long. At the YAHR MT meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup>, Brian also agreed to stand as Vice Chair. Sue Stokes (Barnsley u3a) proposed and Lorna Pope (Sherburn and Villages) seconded that these nominations be accepted.

All other standing members were re-elected: Trevor Barrowcliffe, (Whitby Whaler), Hugh Bevington and Angie Grain (Ilkley u3a), Nick David (York), Heather Turner (Caves), Hazel Ward (Swanland).

The following associate members will continue to be invited to participate in Management Team meetings: Frank Bailey, Beacon Support (Ripon + District), Margaret Fiddes, Regional Trustee (Sherburn + Villages), Doug Hirst, Website Manager (Craven + District), Helen Leech, Public Relations Adviser (Whitby Whaler) and Mick Richings, BEACON Manager (Craven + District).

9. **Appointment of Financial Independent Adviser**, Col. (retired) John Goodsir CBE, formerly of York u3a) proposed by Nick David and seconded by Hazel Ward.

10. **Any other business.** None received in advance.

11. **Vote of Thanks:** Mick Richings thanked everyone for attending and said a fond farewell as the retiring Chairman after three and a half years in office. He unreservedly thanked all members of the Management Teams who had supported him so strongly and untiringly throughout his term of office.

The meeting closed at 11:15 and was followed by a Regional Workshop until lunch time at 1 pm.