FERNDOWN u3a
learn, laugh, live

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Barrington Centre, Ferndown on Friday 6 November 2026

The meeting was convened at 11.00 a.m. The Quorum of 70 members had been reached and exceeded – 96 members in attendance

1. **Welcome and apologies for absence**
   The Chairman, Anne Hutton, welcomed all present to the meeting.

   Apologies were received from Angela Lamb, John Kingston, Nicola Kingston, , Lindsay Gray, Lesley Hensman, Chris Lineham, Chris Bourne, Julian and Jenny Daniel and Rose Wand.

2. **Approval of Minutes of last AGM held on Friday 7 November 2025**
   There were no comments or queries on the Minutes.
   Proposed by Clare Clayton
   Seconded by Jan Bennett and agreed unanimously.

3. **Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts for 2025/26**
   A small typo had been noticed by a member, which did not affect the figures and the Accounts were sent out again with the amendment made. No other questions were received.
   Proposed by Keith Banks
   Seconded by John Gooch and agreed unanimously.

4. **Election of Independent Examiner for 2025/26**
   The Chairman thanked Ian Burr for once again undertaking the role and accepting the invitation to serve once more as our Examiner on behalf of the membership.
   Proposed by Liz Bosanko

   Seconded by Jo Brearley and approved unanimously.

5. **Adoption of Management Report for 2025/26**
   Every member had been sent the AGM papers. No comments or queries were received. The Chairman reminded members that it is their U3A, and ideas and comments are always welcome.
   Proposed by Rodger Petengell
   Seconded by Glyn Bosanko and approved unanimously.

6. **Presentation to retiring Committee members**

The Chairman asked the members present to take a moment's silence to remember our members lost to us during the year.

Retiring Committee members: Angela Larcombe had come to the end of her time on the Committee. Robert Wellman and Linda Pallister also retired for personal reasons. Malcolm Gill was thanked for his 12 years on the Committee and his outstanding contribution as Treasurer and as Beacon support over the years and was presented with a gift. Debbie Gill retired as Membership Secretary and was presented with a gift.

7. **Election of Committee for 2027**

The Chairman thanked the current Committee for all their hard work and asked for a show of appreciation for the members.

The present Committee members introduced themselves to the meeting and gave a brief explanation of their roles. The Treasurer also gave a brief report on FU3A's finances, and asked members if possible to use bank transfers for payments rather than cheques.

- Jo Brearley – Vice Chair & Events Coordinator
- Tony Clarke – Beacon and IT Support
- Vivian Dedman – Vice Chair & Accommodation Officer
- Paul Ellis - Group Leader Coordinator
- Debbie Gill – Retiring as Membership Secretary but continuing as Minutes Secretary
- Jude Hodges – Brochure
- Anne Hutton – Chairman
- David Lamb - Treasurer
- Lynda Pas – Incoming Membership Secretary
- Anu Patel – Visits
- Anne Sharp – Safeguarding & Inclusion •Val Tucker – Welfare and Publicity

The shadow partners introduced to support succession planning ensure the smooth transition of specific roles has proved very successful. Three members have indicated that they are willing to join the Committee – Lindsay Gray, Lesley Hensman and Lorraine O'Hanlon. Lorraine was welcomed to the Committee, with the other two currently on holiday.

The Committee for 2027 was proposed by Bob Reeve, seconded by Malcolm Gill and approved unanimously.

An update was given by the Chairman on Gerry Lewis, our Honorary Treasurer, who continues to reside in the Ferndown Nursing Home, and would welcome visitors.

The Chairman also thanked Keith Banks for his audio and visual support on Fridays and social events, Bob Reeve and Clare Clayton for their support with visits, and Jenny Bass and Rosemary who organise the Friday coffee mornings

Thanks was also given to the Group Leaders who are the life blood of FU3A and without whom the organisation would not be able to run. Finally, all those who support the groups by putting out chairs, tidying up etc were also thanked.

8. **Update on Fu3a Charity of the Year 2026 – The MS Centre West Parley**
   Anne thanked all for their support throughout the year. The total raised so far this year is £1,130 through raffle, quiz and drama presentation. A Charity Coffee Morning will be held later this month. The Chairman said that donations of cakes and raffle prizes would be appreciated and that members could sell crafts. A final figure for the charity donation will be available after this.

9. **Proposal**

   To move the FU3A Financial Year dates to enable the AGM to fall within three months from the year end. This has been prompted by changes made by the Charity Commission. Good practice has the AGM taking place within three months of the end of the financial year.

   Currently: year end is 31 May so AGM would have to be held by 31 August
   Proposed change: year end to be 30 June so that AGM could be held by 30 September. Move the programme to run from the end of September to the end of June.

   Proposed – Neil Bennett
   Seconded – Rodger Pettengell

10. **Any Other Business**
    There were no items for consideration

11. **Moving forward**
    The Chairman gave a short presentation of new features on the members portal. As our website was hacked last summer this gave us the opportunity to update it, and we will continue to update. There was a reminder of new features, e.g. access to groups and how to contact group leaders.

As FU3A continues to grow we need to look at alternative ways to support our administration. The first thing we would like to propose is links to the database which will enable members to check and update their own details when necessary if they feel able to do so. Reassurance was given that no one else is able to view your details.

Many U3As now use online booking and enrolment. Through time we hope to move to this system, but to begin with it will be open to those who feel confident. We will also maintain our current system. We will also run an open day for members to come and see how it works.

We realise this will take time to embed. We will not bring this in over one year but over time but it is important we ensure our volunteers are not overloaded, we are retired!

12. Chairman's closing remarks

Chairman Anne thanked everyone for their help and support over the year. We are continuing to move forward and grow FU3A, and look forward to another year where we Learn, Laugh and Live.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 12 noon.