

Minutes of the 30th Annual General Meeting of Cowbridge u3a held at 2.00pm on
Wednesday September 10th 2025 in Cowbridge Town Hall

**These are draft minutes until approved, possibly with amendments, by the next AGM on
9th September 2026**

- 1) Peter Carter, Cowbridge u3a Chair, welcomed members to the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.
- 2) Peter stated that the meeting was quorate, with well over the required 54 members attending.
- 3) Apologies for absence were received from: Jane Blamey, Silke Casey, Liz Cornelius, Shirley Dunsworth, Gwerfyl Gardner, Ann Harris, Valerie Monaghan Helen Thomas, Rebecca Exley and John Vigar.
- 4) The Minutes of the 29th AGM, held in September 2024, had been circulated to members by email, by the Chair on 05/09/2025, and some hard copies were available. There were no comments or questions on the Minutes. The Motion to accept the Minutes as an accurate record of the 29th AGM was accepted by the members by a show of hands, with one abstention and no objections.
- 5) Peter Carter had previously circulated his Chair's Report to members in the Cowbridge u3a September 2025 Bulletin, issued on 05/09/2025. Some hard copies were available. Peter said that Cowbridge u3a continues to enjoy a stable, healthy and active life with key performance indicators showing no significant year-on-year changes. The number of members on roll is slightly higher than last year at around 270. The number of Interest Groups is slightly lower compared to last year.
Peter Carter asked if there were any questions on his Chair's Report. There were none.
- 6) Ian Fraser, Treasurer, presented the year's accounts. These had been circulated to members by email on 05/09/2025. Hard copies of the signed accounts were available. For the first time, Ian had been able to include Consolidated Accounts for 2023/24 and comparative amounts. The Consolidated u3a accounts have net Funds for 2024/25 of £8,888. Most of these monies are held in a Bank Account and a Deposit Account, as well as a small amount of Petty Cash. The central u3a deficit for the year was -£1,922. In line with u3a financial guidelines, this deficit had been planned beforehand to reduce slightly the net funds held.
A grant for £250 was received from the Third Age Trust (TAT). The Promotional Equipment purchased, included an u3a branded gazebo, costing just over £1,000. Income from member subscriptions had remained very stable.
The u3a maintain an inventory of equipment, held centrally and by Interest Groups. This is maintained for insurance and control purposes, and does not form part of the financial report. The Committee will ensure that the inventory is kept up to date.
The Notes to the Accounts also include "Self-Funded Activities". These include Activities such as the Annual Lunch (deficit -£220) as well as Interest Group Events.
The Treasurer asked if there were any questions on his Presentation of the Accounts. There were no questions.

- 7) The Chair commented that u3a Cowbridge is in a healthy financial state and proposed a Motion to Accept the Accounts. Members voted to accept the Accounts by a unanimous show of hands. There were no abstentions or objections.
- 8) The Chair sent out details of two proposed changes to the Cowbridge u3a constitution to members by email on 20/08/2025. The two proposed changes are: to change the title of "Chairman" to the gender-neutral term "Chair"; and to change the name "visitors" to Interest Groups to "Day Members" in order to comply with the requirements of the u3a insurance policy.

The Chair proposed a Motion to accept these two proposed changes. Members voted by a show of hands. The majority were in favour of accepting the proposed changes. There were 2 votes against accepting the changes. Therefore the changes to the constitution were approved by a majority vote.

- 9) The Chair outlined the procedures for the annual election of the Officer Committee Members (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary). Peter Carter and Ian Fraser (incumbent Chair and Treasurer respectively) are willing to stand again for annual election.

Valerie Monaghan will step down as Secretary. Elizabeth (Liz) Cornelius has been Proposed by Valerie Monaghan as Secretary for 2025/2026 and Seconded by Peter Carter. Unfortunately Liz Cornelius was unable to attend the AGM due to illness. Anne Thomas was co-opted as a Deputy Secretary to take the Minutes for this AGM meeting. Betty Alden is also standing down as the Publicity and Liaison Committee Member. Patricia (Tricia) Hulse and Anne Thomas have been nominated to take over from Betty. Tricia will lead on Publicity and Liaison. Anne will lead on Social Media activity. Roger Eustace (previously co-opted) was nominated as the Groups Co-ordinator and Compliance Officer. Committee Members are elected for two years. Elizabeth Eustace (Vice Chair), Scylla Cumbes (Membership), Rob Cumbes (Talks Co-ordinator) and Rebecca Exley (Trips Co-ordinator) were not, therefore, required to stand for re-election in 2025.

The Chair presented a full list of Nominees, Proposers and Seconders. A copy of this list is attached to these Minutes. The Chair suggested that the membership may wish to vote on all the nominations collectively. This was agreed. The Chair's Motion to accept all the nominations was approved unanimously by the members by a show of hands. There were no abstentions and no objections.

- 10) The Treasurer proposed that the nomination of Colin Decker as Independent Examiner of Accounts again be ratified for 2025/26. This was unanimously accepted by the membership.

- 11) The Chair announced that the Committee proposes to keep the annual subscription at £15 p.a. The membership voted unanimously to accept this proposal. Member subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st October.

Some Interest Groups charge £2 for Day Membership and other groups charge £3. Rob Cumbes proposed that the charge for Day Visitors to both the u3a general meetings and all the Interest Groups should be £2 per day. This was seconded by David Crompton. The membership agreed unanimously.

Ian Fraser, Treasurer, said that there was a reduced membership fee of £7.50 for new

members who join at least half way through the year. This reduced rate does not apply to existing members who have forgotten to pay their membership fee earlier (laughter).

12) On behalf of the membership, Colin Decker thanked all the Committee members for their hard work, which is very much appreciated by the membership (applause).

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, as well as Mags Buchalik and the hospitality team for providing refreshments. Peter closed the formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting at 2.25pm. Presentations followed the Formal Business of the AGM.

A CELEBRATION OF 30 YEARS OF COWBRIDGE u3a

The AGM was followed by a Celebration of 30 years of Cowbridge u3a; including a table quiz where members were challenged to recognise the Committee members from photos of them as babies or young children; light refreshments; and entertainment by the Shantijaks.

PRESENTATIONS

Following the conclusion of the formal business of the AGM, Peter warmly welcomed the Mayor of Cowbridge, Councillor Geraint Baty, to the meeting.

The Mayor then presented the Cowbridge u3a's original (1995) members with Honorary Membership Certificates, commending and thanking them for laying the foundations for Cowbridge u3a.

The original (1995) members were: John Hopkins, Margaret Davies, Shirley Dunsworth, Terry Dunsworth, David Pierce, Ann Alford, Roger Barwick and Pamela Robins.

The Mayor also presented Peter Carter, Chair, Cowbridge u3a with a 30th Anniversary u3a Certificate. The framed Certificate will be displayed at all Cowbridge u3a general meetings.

The Mayor congratulated all the u3a members on a fabulous 30 years to date and hoped that the next 30 years (and more) will be as successful as the previous 30 years. The Mayor and the Chair then cut a magnificent chocolate cake, in the shape of a "30", which had been made by Julie Anscombe.

Anne Thomas

Co-opted Secretary (in the absence of Liz Cornelius, Secretary)