

DRAFT to be approved at the 2027 AGM

**Minutes of the 31st Annual General Meeting of Cowbridge u3a held at 2.00pm on
Wednesday September 9th 2026 in Cowbridge Town Hall**

1. **Welcome:** Peter Carter, Cowbridge u3a Chair, warmly welcomed Cowbridge u3a members, especially new members, to the Annual General Meeting.
2. **Quorum check:** Peter confirmed that the meeting was quorate (62 members required). In fact, with 97 Cowbridge u3a members present (later updated to 102), the quorum was significantly exceeded. Peter said that it was a great pleasure to see so many members altogether.
3. **Apologies for Absence:** Apologies for absence were received from: Jane Blaney; Joyce Chatterton; Bob Collier; Sue Collier; Pat Copley; Liz Cornelius; Rebecca Exley; Ann Harris; Patricia Long; Ann Minchin; Glyn Scantlebury; Jenny Smith; and Glenys Stevens.
4. **Acceptance of the Previous Minutes:** The Minutes of the 30th AGM, held in September 2025, had been published on the Cowbridge u3a website and drawn to members' attention, both in a Bulletin and by email. There were paper copies of the AGM Minutes available in the AGM for members who were unable to access the Minutes electronically. There were no comments or questions on the Minutes. The Motion to approve the Minutes as an accurate record of the 30th AGM was: proposed by Gwerfyl Gardner; seconded by Rob Cumbes; and accepted by the members by a show of hands, with one abstention and no objections.
5. **Chair's Report:** Peter Carter had previously circulated his Chair's Report to members in the Cowbridge u3a September 2026 Bulletin, issued on 02/09/2026. Paper copies were also available in the AGM. Peter Carter asked if there were any questions on his Chair's Report. There were none.

Peter then gave his special thanks to: his wife, Jean for her support; the Town Hall Staff for facilitating Cowbridge u3a meetings and also to Mayor Malcolm Wilson; to all the Cowbridge u3a Committee Members who have supported Peter over the past five years; Group Leaders, the unsung heroes of Cowbridge u3a; Mags Buchalik and the refreshments team who are always appreciated; and to the 316 members, without whom Cowbridge u3a wouldn't exist. Finally Peter wished Elizabeth Eustace and the new committee every success for 2026/27.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** Ian Fraser, Treasurer, presented the year's accounts. These had been circulated to members in the September 2026 Bulletin on 02/09/2025. Paper copies of the signed accounts were available in the meeting.

Cowbridge u3a virtually broke even in 2025/26, with a deficit of £436 (2024-25: deficit of £1,922). Membership Fees were up by 10% at £4,396 (2024-25: £3,982). Major items of expenditure included: Third Age Trust Membership Subscription £1,128; the u3a "Age Matters" magazine £912; Room Hire £999; and Speakers £790. The cost of the successful Open Day, November 2025, (£540) was covered by grants from Third Age Trust £500 and Cowbridge Town Council £100.

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Cowbridge u3a paid grants to Interest Groups £145 (2024-25: £210). This included £77 for Room Hire and £49 for The Quiz. Interest Groups had a total surplus for the year of £981 (2024-25: £73). Interest groups should aim to break even annually but their funds can fluctuate within the year, depending on their planned activities.

Cowbridge u3a consolidated surplus is £545 (2024-25: Deficit £1,849). This brings Cowbridge u3a's Total Consolidated Funds at 30th June 2026 to £9,434. Cowbridge u3a policy is that Total Funds should equate to Total Membership Fees received.

7. **Acceptance of the accounts:** The Chair said that u3a Cowbridge was in a good financial position going forward. Roger Eustace proposed acceptance of the accounts. This was seconded by Scylla Cumbes. Members voted to accept the accounts by a unanimous show of hands. There were no abstentions or objections.
8. **Election of Officers:** The Chair said that the following people had volunteered to be nominated for the following principal officer and committee member roles (as shown on an overhead slide) and had been properly proposed and seconded: Elizabeth Eustace (Chair); John Kay (Secretary); Ian Fraser (Treasurer); Scylla Cumbes (Membership Secretary); with new Committee members: Pam Kay (Events Coordinator) and Sue Pearson (Membership Liaison).
Roger Eustace, Groups Co-ordinator and Compliance Officer and Tricia Hulse, Publicity and Liaison had been elected to the Committee in 2025 for two years. Peter Carter and Anne Thomas had stepped down as Chair and Secretary respectively. There were special thanks to Rob Cumbes who will continue as an excellent Talks Co-ordinator but has resigned as a Committee Member. Graham Couchman continues as Cowbridge u3a IT and website expert. Graham was warmly thanked for the huge amount of time and work that he dedicates to this.
The Chair suggested that the membership may wish to vote on all the nominations collectively. This was agreed. Acceptance of all the nominations was proposed by Val Monaghan; seconded by Rob Cumbes; and approved unanimously by the members by a show of hands. There were no abstentions and no objections.
9. **Approval of the Independent Examiner of Accounts:** The Treasurer recommended the nomination of Colin Decker as Independent Examiner of Accounts for 2026/27. Colin Decker has examined the accounts for several years and is willing to do it again this year. This was formally proposed by Roger Eustace and seconded by Val Jasinski. This was unanimously accepted by the membership by a show of hands.
10. **Approval of the annual subscription:** The Chair said that the Committee proposed to keep the annual subscription at £15 p.a. Member subscriptions are due for renewal on 1st October. This was formally proposed by Scylla Cumbes, and seconded by Mags Buchalik.
11. **Introductory Address by the New Chair:** Elizabeth Eustace thanked the members for accepting her as the new Chair and she looked forward to working with the new committee. Based on her experience as Vice-Chair, Elizabeth has some ideas for

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additional, new activities and initiatives, including: a celebration of the Group Leaders and other invaluable volunteers during u3a national volunteer week; closer connections with (and trips to) other u3as in Wales including through the Regional/National networks; greater recognition of the Welsh language, especially on our website; and greater collaboration with other local organisations for example local schools. Elizabeth would like all members to have a say, if they wish, in how Cowbridge u3a moves forward and invited all members to share any comments, suggestions or ideas for new activities with Elizabeth or Sue Pearson, the new Membership Liaison Coordinator. Elizabeth finished by saying “together we will make Cowbridge u3a the best that it can be”.

12. Elizabeth then presented gifts/flowers, with special thanks to Rob Cumbes and Anne Thomas for their excellent service for Cowbridge u3a. Elizabeth said that Peter Carter had been an excellent and dedicated Vice Chair and then Chair. In addition to a gift, Elizabeth presented Peter with a card signed by Cowbridge u3a members with their individual thanks and warm wishes. Jean Carter was also thanked and presented with flowers for her support.

13. Peter closed the formal proceedings of the Annual General Meeting at 2.40pm.

The AGM was followed by light refreshments; and excellent and enthusiastic entertainment by the Porthcawl Ukelele Bandits.

Anne Thomas

Retiring Secretary

Cowbridge u3a

10th September 2026