

BOTLEY HEDGE END & DISTRUST u3a

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD ON 8TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 1.30PM AT BOTLEY MARKET HALL (To be approved at the AGM 2026)

1. **Welcome from the Chair:** The Chair, Sue Derrick, welcomed members to the AGM which would be followed by the Speaker, Jeremy Prescott on Bomber Command.
2. **Attendance and Apologies for Absence:** 96 members and 3 guests attended. Apologies were received from 7 members.
3. **Minutes of the last AGM held on Wednesday 9th October 2024:** the Minutes were accepted by the members and signed by Sue Derrick, Chair and Anne Warden, Secretary.
4. **Annual Reports of u3a Activities:**
 - a) **Chair's Report** (already circulated with the Agenda). The Chair, Sue Derrick, reported that membership continues to grow and now stood at 181, due in many respects to monthly updates to members, social media, posters etc. A new trifold leaflet had now been printed and a newsletter sent out four times a year. Our website has been changed due to new software introduced by the national u3a. She said we have had a busy year Learning, Living and Laughing. Interest groups and trips continue to grow and be successful. Speakers were booked until November 2026. She then went on to explain the proposal from the Committee to alter the Constitution in line with many other u3as. The maximum length of service of Committee members would be changed from a three year term to a six year term, with a maximum term on the Committee extended to 12 years in any combination of roles whether or not the periods of service are contiguous. The Third Age Trust had given permission for this change provided it was voted in at this AGM. The reasons for this change were that there were national difficulties recruiting committee members in all organisations. This extended term would allow us to put in place a proper access plan. Sue also thanked the Meet and Greeters and the helpers in the Kitchen for their help during the past year.

Geoff Warden, Vice Chair, thanked Sue Derrick for her hard work and dedication, particularly with national and regional initiatives.
 - b) **Group Co-ordinator's Report** (already circulated with the Agenda). Geoff Warden, Group Co-ordinator, reported the number and variety of Interest Groups continues to grow. He thanked the members who volunteer to facilitate these groups as well as those who supported the activities. A number of groups were being held in members' homes and also in a few local venues. He said that a large percentage of groups were being organised and run by members of the Committee and encouraged more members to volunteer as facilitators. New groups started this year were Archaeology, Science Interests, a second Mahjong group and ad hoc visits to screenings to Opera, Ballet and Theatre. More recreational days out have been popular. Suggestions for further visits were always welcome. He thanked David Morris for his tireless work on these events and other members who had been involved.

5. **Financial Report & Examination of Accounts for 2024/25** (already circulated with the Agenda). Tony Luetchford, Treasurer, reported that we were in a financially secure position at the end of the last financial year. He thanked all group leaders for their efficiency when paying monies into our account. He also thanked Keith Watkins, the Independent Examiner for undertaking the Examination of Accounts 2024/25. Keith had offered his services for the upcoming year. BHE&D had now become a registered charity after submitting our accounts to the Charity Commission.
6. **Appointment of Examination for the Accounts:** Keith Watkins was appointed Independent Examiner for the Accounts in 2025/6, proposed by Sharon Whiting, seconded by Lin Jeans.
7. **Election of the Committee:** the present Committee, who were willing to stand for another year, was proposed by Eileen Wright, seconded by Nicola Abbott.
Post Meeting Minute: Sue Derrick was elected by the Committee as Chair for 2025/26.
8. **Constitutional Changes:** Members voted unanimously for the proposed Constitutional changes, proposed by Nikki Lyle, seconded by Jean Smith.
9. **Proposals/Motions:** there were no Proposals/Motions.
10. **Date of Next AGM:** Wednesday 14th October 2026.

The AGM closed at 2.00pm