

## LOSTWITHIEL AREA u3a

### Minutes of Special General Meeting (SGM)

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 at 2pm in the Church Rooms, Lostwithiel**

**Attendees:** 39 members present  
(2 non-members present)

**Apologies:** Wendy Coop, Brian Davis, June Davis, Malcolm Heaven, Barbara Milner, Charlayne Platt, Lyndsay Southgate, Delia Wallace.

David Platt (Committee Member) welcomed those present and provided a brief background for the reasons why a SGM was being held to change aspects of our u3a Constitution. Following our AGM in May, we are currently running with vacancies on our Committee – **Chair and Vice Chair**; these are two of the four “Officer” roles which our current Constitution requires (along with Treasurer and Secretary). We are also looking to make some changes to improve our flexibility to recruit future committee members and remove some of the barriers of doing so currently present in our Constitution.

David explained aspects of our Constitution and procedure to make changes. Part 1 of our Constitution concerns Objectives/Purpose of our charity and is not to be amended. Part 2 concerns the way we go about organising ourselves and can be amended subject to u3a central office agreement; (our proposed changes relate to Part 2). With central office agreement, a SGM must then be held, with a simple majority of votes of members present and Proxy votes received to make required changes.

In terms of progress to date, our suggested amendments have been submitted to and agreed by u3a central office and notice of the SGM to hold a vote on proposed changes to our Constitution was issued to members, including details of how to make a Proxy vote for those unable to attend the meeting and wishing to do so.

Voting on 3 proposals is now required; the number of members present at SGM forms a quorum, and Proxy votes from 10 members have also been received.

#### **Proposal 1**

- To remove the role of **Vice chair** from the list of Officers that we should have on our managing Committee, reducing this to Chair, Treasurer and Secretary (clause 16(2)).

To address a question from the audience, David clarified that by removing the role of Vice Chair it doesn't mean that we can't have one; it just means that it is no longer a constitutional requirement for this role, to allow our u3a to continue to operate.

Those present were asked to vote on proposal 1: All in Favour/Against/Abstain.

**Vote:** In the room by show of hands, unanimous vote “for”; no votes “against”, no abstentions. Plus 10 Proxy votes in favour.

Result: Agreement to accept proposal 1 to remove the role of Vice Chair.

## **Proposal 2**

- To remove the requirement for a Trustee (I.E. Committee member) to be limited to a continuous period of 3 years without at least a year’s break between periods of service. (Removal of entire clause 16(8)).

David clarified that the maximum total period of service on the Committee in any combination of roles remains unchanged at 9 years.

Those present were asked to vote on proposal 2: All in Favour/Against/Abstain.

**Vote:** In the room by show of hands, unanimous vote “for”; no votes “against”, no abstentions. Plus 9 Proxy votes in favour; 1 against.

Result: Agreement to accept proposal 2 to remove clause 16(8).

## **Proposal 3**

- To remove the guidance from clause 21 preventing people serving as an Officer/non-Officer member of the executive committee of more than one u3a.

(We currently have 23 associate members in our u3a).

Those present were asked to vote on proposal 3: All in Favour/Against/Abstain.

**Vote:** In the room by show of hands, unanimous vote “for”; no votes “against”, no abstentions. Plus 9 Proxy votes in favour; 1 against.

Result: Agreement to accept proposal 3 to remove guidance preventing people serving as committee member of more than one u3a.

David noted that the three proposals tabled had been devised by u3a central office to help u3as, making it easier to fill committee roles. On conclusion of the voting, with the 3 changes duly approved, we will now advise u3a central office of the agreed changes and amend our Constitution accordingly.

Looking forward, David reported some good news: Following circulation of the SGM notice, two members have been co-opted onto our Committee; one of these new committee members has also expressed an interest in the Chair role at next year’s AGM. Other roles, e.g. Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, also become vacant at the AGM in May 2026.