STOCKPORT U3A

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT STOCKPORT SUNDAY SCHOOL 5TH NOVEMBER 2026

Present: Alex Drysdale (AD)(Chairman) Joan Davies (JD) (Vice Chairman) Gill Cameron (GC)(Treasurer) Milly Gillespie (MG) (Secretary) Pauline Hadfield (PH) (Membership Secretary) Ken Jones (KJ)(Webmaster) Barbara Marriott (BM)(Committee) Margaret Minns (MM) (Committee)

Apologies: Les Scholes

Minutes of the last meeting 23rd July were read and approved.

No matters arising from the minutes.

Correspondence.

KJ had received a letter from member regarding the paper copy of the monthly diary. As we are no longer able to produce this, it was decided to give the members a demonstration of how to access the website and what the website has to offer, KJ will put a presentation together, to be shown at the next meeting and MG will talk the members through the process.

Financial Report - GC

Nat West Bank	£ 4,438.18
Vernon B S	£14,564.00
Total	£19,002.18

Number of members 349

Since April 54 new members have joined

Attendance at meetings Sept 112, Oct 123, Nov 105

I have claimed Gift Aid; the value was £252.

Included in the bank figures is an amount of £1,900. This is money collected for Food Appreciation Christmas meal and will be spent by the end of the year.

The Building Society balance includes the interest added to the account which was £266.

Gill mentioned that she will be away for the January meeting, MM has agreed to take the money. Which brought us on to subject of cover for committee when absent, JD suggested that we have a list available at our Open Meetings and ask members to sign up to help on a very ad hoc basis, cover for treasurer and registrar and even help if needed in the kitchen. MG will prepare a list and send out a message on Beacon to make members aware.

Room Bookings

MG reported that this has been a slow process this year, due to the venues not getting back, this is still on going.

Groups

It was mentioned that we are losing more groups than gaining them, a recruitment drive on new groups was discussed. It was decided that AD will ask members if they have any interest, they would like to share in starting a new group, if we get any response we will float the idea in January. It was also mentioned that members are not happy about having to open up at SSS, as the alarm system is difficult to set, it was agreed to monitor this and if this becomes a problem with may need to look for a new venue for that group.

JD mentioned that Stockport Library currently has a staffing problem and is unable to supply us with books, each group has been informed, and they are managing the situation themselves, by either using Borrow Box for buying books and passing them round. Hopefully this will only be temporary.

Christmas Open Meeting

The Christmas Open meeting was discussed, and it was agreed to change the title to a Christmas Celebration and Get Together. AD will get the mince pies and tea and coffee will be served, no actives have been planned, it will be a very informal meeting, KJ will provide some Christmas music as background.

Any Other Business

AD informed the committee that we will no longer be attending any more meetings for the North West Networking Group, however, he will continue to receive the minutes just for information. A discussion took place regarding one of our group leaders having a problem paying in advance for tickets, GC informed the committee that a conversation had taken place with this group leader and it was pointed out there were always ways to make these payments by going through the main bank account, any group leader just needs to discuss with treasurer to make any payment.

GC mentioned that a Cheese and Wine afternoon has been arranged for Thursday 15th April @ 5:50 – 7:30 and will be a Food Appreciation event, this has been booked and will be added to the website (MG)

As Ms Veronica Bland has been admitted to hospital and is unlikely to return to the u3a we will have to remove her from the board of Trustees (MG)

MG mentioned that we need to prepare for the AGM in March, she will look up the members coming up for re-election and send this out to the committee (MG)

Date of the next meeting **Thursday 4th March 2027 @ 2pm** Barbara will provide the refreshments