FLEET AND DISTRICT

Minutes of Fleet & District u3a AGM held on
Wednesday 19th November 2025

1. **Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Anne Morley, Membership secretary. Stephen Grosvenor, the Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and explained that there were copies of the agenda and the financial report for the year ended 31st August 2025 on alternate chairs.

2. **Approval of the minutes of the AGM held in November 2024.**

A copy of the minutes was sent out to all prior to the AGM. Members were asked if there were any comments. No comments were received so the Chairman asked the members to approve the minutes, for which there was a unanimous vote in favour.

Proposed: Tim Cansdale **Seconder:** Brian Proctor

3. **Matters arising from the minutes**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes so these were then signed by Stephen Grosvenor Chair Fleet u3a.

4. **Chair's Report**

The chair reported that Fleet u3a had enjoyed another successful year in 2024/25 with membership numbers up slightly on the previous year. Since taking on the Chair's position in April from my illustrious predecessor John Gawthorpe, it has been a pleasure to work with the committee, who we must remember are all unpaid volunteers, to help ensure that Fleet u3a continues to go from strength to strength. It has been great to see some new members join the committee, and we are always looking for other members to come forward to support the committee and to take over positions when committee members eventually step down.

As always, I have to give a big thank you to all our group leaders. They do an amazing job, and we would not be able to exist without them. We are only able to offer over 100 groups for members to join due to the hard work and enthusiasm of our group leaders. If you are a member of a group with a waiting list, please do consider creating a spin-off group. WE must also not forget the Visit team and the Rollers group, who do a wonderful job organising so many trips around the country.

Fleet u3a is one of the largest organisations in the Fleet area and also possibly one of its best-kept secrets. I often meet people in the area who are only vaguely aware of the "u3a" and what it does for the community. As always, it is a question of keeping the balance right between growing the membership, encouraging new group leaders to step forward and finding venue space to hold meetings if they cannot meet in a member's home. If we can get this right going forward, we will continue to thrive and to provide interesting activities and opportunities for socialising for adults no longer in full-time work.

Finally, I am delighted to be able to announce Honorary Life Membership this year to John Gawthorpe and Mike Rance. John was a committee member for some years and was my predecessor as Chair. Mike was the Group Leader of the Jazz Appreciation Group for many years before stepping down this year. Both of them have made a significant contribution to the success of Fleet u3a over the years and I am sure that everyone will wish them all the very best in their retirement.

As the team captain for the winning quiz team at the latest Quiz Challenge was unable to attend, the trophy will be presented at the next monthly meeting.

5. Financial Report

The final, examined accounts for 2024-25 were presented to the membership. Neil Morley, the Treasurer reported that the format of the accounts was very similar to previous years. He wished to thank, Anne Guerin, who has helped Neil with the accounts and also Michael Lysaght for being the Accounts Examiner. Michael has agreed to be the examiner for next year too.

Neil explained that he had not reported on gift aid, as there is an ongoing dispute between TAT and HRMC regarding gift aid. However, he did remind members to try to give gift aid when taking out or renewing membership.

A question was raised by Kevin Druce, who asked why the visits' funds had risen from £13,000 the previous year to £51,000 this year. Neil explained that this was mainly due to the fees for one trip costing about £20,000 being collected in one accounting period, but the expenses not being paid out until the new accounting period. The visits' funds are now back down to approximately £8,000.

John Gawthorpe also expressed his pleasure at seeing a reduction in the cash funds as his experience has shown that it is actually very hard to spend money appropriately for the u3a members. Funds continuing to rise are not a sign of success.

6. Resolution 1 – to elect the Committee Members and Officers for academic year 2025-26

The chair explained that there was a list of all the Committee Members and Officers on the back of the agenda for everybody to see. There being no objections, this resolution was agreed.

Proposed: John Gawthorpe **Seconder:** Peter Histon

7. Resolution 2 – appoint the Accounts Examiner for the u3a finance year 2025-26

Neil Morley reported that Michael Lysaght was happy to be the Examiner for 2025-26. No objections were received.

Proposed: Sandy Redman **Seconder:** Jean Carr

8. Business Declared Urgent by the Chair

There was no urgent business so the AGM closed at 11:25

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Stephen Grosvenor, Chair, 18th November 2026