

**Minutes of the u3a Vall del Pop Annual General Meeting held on
Thursday 6th March 2025**

Venue: Polivalent, Murla.

Note taker: Paula Barrett

Members present: 63

Meeting commenced at 11.30

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting March 2024

These minutes were approved as accurate , proposed by Gerry Bacon and seconded by Marian White.

2. Matters Arising: none

3. President's Report: Chris Barrett then gave his President's report for the past year as follows:

This time last year we heard Bob Welham's final President's Report. I responded by thanking Bob and Sandra for all their hard work on behalf of our Association over many years. I noted that the Association was in good health in all respects, including financial. I said that members should not expect to see any dramatic changes following the change of president. My aim was rather to build on our existing strengths and successes. This is what we as a committee have tried to achieve, I believe with some success.

Our general assemblies have been very well attended and feedback in this respect from our member surveys has been consistently positive. We try to provide a mixture of activities and have welcomed some excellent speakers. The new 'Meet a member' slot has also been well received, but we will need more volunteers if we are to keep this going.

We are always looking for ways to improve communication with you, our members, and recently undertook a survey of members' preferred channels of communication which has provided some useful insights for us to work with. The refresh of our website has already been a significant improvement. I am

particularly proud of our monthly newsletters produced by Linda Burns. I believe these are of remarkable quality for an organisation of our size. Today you will also see our new leaflets for the first time, also designed by Linda. Once again Blevins Franks has kindly paid for all the costs of printing the leaflets.

Inevitably we lose a number of members each year for different reasons, but I am very encouraged by our ability to attract new members. We have not yet completed all the membership renewals, but I hope that we will reach a final tally approaching 500 new and renewed members for the coming year. With the increased membership fee this places us in a strong position going forward.

The different activity groups are at the heart of our organisation and with 18 groups we already offer a wide range of options. We also welcome and support the establishment of new groups wherever people see an opportunity.

The Travel & Entertainment team has likewise provided an excellent choice of events throughout the year. Looking ahead we will have a brilliant combination of old favourites and new ideas on offer.

Our Friendship & Support team continues to give very valuable fellowship and support to several of our members. More generally our new 'Information Hub' booklets have provided an important source of information to all our members, both in hard copy and online. In the coming year we will aim to build further on these successes working closely, where appropriate, with other local voluntary organisations.

4. **Treasurer's Report.** Roger Bentley the presented the Treasurer's report for 2024 as follows:

Good morning, my name is Roger Bentley. I am the Treasurer for the u3a Vall Del Pop and would like to present you with this report on behalf of your Committee for this Annual General Meeting, as follows:

General Observations

As I have now been in the job for nearly five years I am wondering where the time has gone, especially through the challenging periods of the Pandemic 2020/21.

Our numbers have still to return to pre-Covid levels, but it is encouraging to see the number of renewals and new members at the current level so early in 2025.

Fortunately, due to our efforts, people are starting to enjoy themselves and the organised trips and groups are being supported well.

The Goodwill/Charity team is running well, and funds are starting to build up again. A decision has been made as to the distribution of funds accrued during 2024.

As I have stated before and following the previous Treasurers guidelines, I am continuing to carry on the philosophy that we must always maintain a reasonable reserve fund, to cover any necessary but unbudgeted expenditure.

Year 2024 Income/Expenditure

We commenced on the 1st January 2024 with an overall balance of €5754.79 on the Central Account and closed at the 31st December 2024 with a balance of €2904.70. NB these totals include bank balance and cash in hand.

Actual membership fees received were €4,098 against a budget of €4,200.

Our expenditure in the year significantly exceeded our budget, due to two unplanned but necessary items of expenditure: the website update and production of the new Friendship and Support booklet. Other areas of recurring expenditure generally remained within budget.

This increased expenditure inevitably resulted in a similar reduction in our reserves, as shown in the year-end balance above. This was the main reason for our deciding to increase our annual membership fee to the same Euros 10 already charged by other u3a associations on the Costa Blanca,

With this increase in fees for 2025 the bank account is already looking healthier and leaves me confident that we have a back-up within the main account to meet any future unforeseen expenditure which may arise.

The table below shows budgeted and actual expenditure under each category of expenditure.

<i>Expenditure Categories</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual Costs Incurred</i>
Group Funding	200	0

Professional Fees	3290	3212.30
Committee – Office Costs etc	800	3346.37
Committee - Travel	250	48.00
Speakers Fees/Gifts	250	0
Hospitality	400	350.70
Polivent Rent & Caretaker 450.00	500	
Share & Care Team	150	307.40
Other Miscellaneous Costs	<u>100</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Totals	5940.00	7714.77

Year To Date 2025

We commenced 1st January 2025 with a balance of €2904.70 and, as of today, 6th March 2025, the Central Account balance stands at €5690.33. This includes Bank account deposits and cash in hand.

The balances on the other accounts are as follows:

€976.67	TCET now Travel and Entertainment Account
€173.82	Cinema Account
€5936.64	Goodwill / Charity Account

It is too early in the year to compare actual income and expenditure to budget, but I can tell you that at this stage we are not aware of any material unbudgeted expenditure.

Closing Remarks

As an organisation we are not subject to taxation on monies raised in accordance with the terms of our Constitution. However, any other monies raised could be regarded as income and might attract corporation tax – currently at 10%. To date no specific tax return on charity income has been requested or made. Should this arise we need to be aware that preparation of corporate tax returns by external assessors could prove far more costly than the annual audit fees we are now paying. Your Committee is aware of this situation and will continue to keep this matter under review.

As previously all our accounting records for 2024 will be reviewed and audited by external Assessors - Gilabert & Jaime Assessors of Denia. The review not only includes our Central Account but also accounting records for the Travel & Entertainment team, Cinema group and the Goodwill/Charity team. All three of these entities are self-funding and do not receive any funds from Central Account membership monies.

The full financial figures are available should any member wish to consult with our Treasury Team. A copy of this report and the external Assessors report will be uploaded to the website and should be available within the next few weeks.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee and members for their continued support over past four years.

In closing, I now propose formal adoption of these accounts for 2024.

R E Bentley
Treasurer
6th March 2025

5. Election of new committee for 2025/2026

The Secretary, Paula Barrett, then led the process for election of the President for the coming year. Chris Barrett was proposed by Mary Bacon and seconded by Gerry Bacon. This nomination was accepted unanimously and Chris took the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Chris then asked members present to approve individually the proposed members of the new committee for 2025/2026. He was very grateful that all the existing members had agreed to remain in position, and he thanked them for their hard work and support.

Position

Nominee

Vice President

Paul Corazzo

Secretary	Paula Barrett
Assistant Secretary	Sally Ellis
Treasurer	Roger Bentley
Membership Secretary	Barbara Bentley
Hospitality officer	Gerry Bacon
Hospitality officer	Mary Bacon
Groups Coordinator	Teresa Tillbrook
Public Relations Officer	Peter Ellis
Travel and Entertainment	Carole Wardle
Vocale	Christine Rowland
Vocale	Brigid Redmond
Vocale	Christine Brazier

All the above nominees were voted in unanimously.

Paul Corazzo thanked Chris and Paula for their hard work this past year.

Meeting closed at 11.55

Signed.....President

Signed.....Secretary

Any members wishing to comment on these minutes, please e mail the Secretary, Paula Barrett, at secretary@u3avalldelpop.com

