

Kings Norton & District



Minutes of the Committee Meeting Tuesday 18 October 2022

Present: Linda Curry (Chair), Beryl Blood, Lorna Brown, Pauline George, Vicki Hone, Helen Kempster, Chris Locke, Margaret Lusher, Pauline Amor.

<p>1. Welcome & Apologies (LC) LC welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies.</p> <p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting (LC) Draft minutes of the meeting on 20 September 2022 were approved.</p> <p>3. Matters arising Item 5 Matters arising previously 1) LB had circulated a draft revised contact list for committee members to check entries and will issue the revised list as corrected.</p> <p>2) It was agreed that the coffee morning for new members should be held on 19 November. VH will send email round all committee – PG, ML, BB, VH and LB confirmed they would be attending, HK possibly.</p> <p>Item 6 LC had sent the article to Bournville Pages for inclusion and the editor had confirmed that she would post LC a copy when it had been included.</p> <p>Item 7 CL has cancelled the direct debit for the WIFI at St Joseph's and will await any contact from Virgin Media. He had been unable to find any contract details. He will ask Lorraine at St Joseph's to look out for any correspondence from Virgin Media – that might be the only contact point that the company has.</p> <p>4. Chair's report (LC) LC reported that she had attended the u3a National AGM on 6 October, which had been an all-day Zoom event. Resolution (1) proposing changes to the constitution had been passed. There had been considerable discussion about Resolution (2) proposing an increase in capitation fees with effect from 2023, and each year thereafter, in line with the state pension increase. There were 10 amendments proposed. The second Resolution to Resolution 2 was voted on, again with 10 amendments. The main objections were to (a) basing the increase on the</p>	<p>LB</p> <p>VH</p> <p>CL</p>
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Pension index and (b) when and how much the capitation increase would be imposed. Neither the proposed resolutions, nor any of the amendments were passed. The capitation fee therefore remains at the current level, possibly until the 2023 AGM.

National office has issued an email regarding the AGM Follow-up.

Speaker meetings going forward are booked as follows:

November	Birmingham at War	Keith Clinton
December	Christmas social	
2023		
January	no meeting	
February	Back to Back Houses	David Humphries
March	IGs showcase	
April	Barrow to Baghdad	Philip Caine
May	AGM plus speaker to be announced	
June	Highway Code	Marcus McCormack
July	to be announced	
August	no meeting	
September	Where do novelists get their ideas from?	Bobbie Darbyshire

It was noted that the National u3a has a list of speakers; LC also uses a list drawn up by Birmingham City Council which has the advantage of locally based speakers.

5. Treasurer's report (CL)

CL had circulated a financial report for the half year ending 30 September and a summary note about Interest group activities prior to the committee meeting.

There were reserves of £5,126 at end of the period. All the large bills, including capitation have been paid, and he expects reserves to be down to approximately £3000 by the end of the year, not including any membership renewal fees.

6. Interest Groups using rented rooms (CL)

There is an overall net surplus of £333.50 in the accounts for Interest Group activities, but the costs of room hire for the Dame Elizabeth site are yet to be finalised. Invoices have been delayed and the IGL did not appear to be aware that there was a minimum of 2 hours for a hire session. CL is expecting those costs to be £220 - £240.

CL stressed the importance of IGLs knowing the cost of hire, that a contract for hire is entered into by KNU3a, and that invoices were forwarded to him for payment.

7. Confirmation of Guidelines for Interest Group Leaders (BB)

BB had circulated a further draft of the revised guidelines. She will further amend them to reflect the above comments about ensuring that a contract is in place for room hire, that IGLs are aware of hire costs and that invoices for room hire are sent to CL for payment. She will then send the guidelines to LC.

BB

BB/LC

8. Interest Groups (PG)

PG noted that, as previously reported, 3 new groups had started: Ballet, Opera & Musicals, a 3rd Book Group and a new Quiz Group.

9. Requests for New Interest Groups

BB had received 3 requests for a Philosophy (rather than History of Philosophy) Group. She has emailed the Monday Philosophy Group re potential leadership of a new group. There are no vacancies in a Philosophy group within the Network.

ML had received a request for a new group for technology issues – help with using phones, computers etc. It was agreed that it would be difficult to provide assistance for the range of devices available. Assistance would be more effective on a one-to-one basis. LB suggested that public libraries may be able to assist and that individuals requiring assistance may have to be prepared to travel to such venues. PG questioned whether a Saturday morning event for such issues might be appropriate.

PG

10. Venue List (VH)

VH has completed an update of the venue list, with the exception of St Nicholas' and Cotteridge Friends Meeting House who have not responded. She noted that it was a lengthy task and that details needed regularly updating. A number of venues had moved to session rather than hourly hires and increased their charges.

VH commented that Rowheath Pavilion was a good venue and would be suitable for the general meetings, but for its limited availability – only Friday afternoons were regularly available. It was agreed that Friday afternoon was not a good time for general meetings.

The list will be uploaded to the website. PG offered to circulate to IGLs.

CL agreed that as he would become aware of changes to hire rates through his liaison with booking clerks and invoice handling, he could update the venue list details. (By downloading, amending and forwarding to ML to upload on website.)

ML PG

CL

11. October and November meetings

It was agreed that the October meeting went quite well, despite the need for LC to arrange a different speaker just the weekend before as the booked speaker had to go into hospital. Bob Booth had used the head microphone this time and could be heard through the hall.

The invite for members to stay on after the talk to look at IG boards and talk with the co-ordinator had worked well.

Kevin Clenton had confirmed his talk on Birmingham at War for the November general meeting.

12. Christmas Party

It was agreed that the party would include:

Mince pies;

Mulled wine;

Tea & biscuits;

Christmas jumper competition;

Raffle – free ticket on entry, prizes to be bought or provided by interest groups to display their wares

Foodbank, donations to be collected by the Trussell Trust

LB will check whether Allan Walmsley will be able to attend the party, and if so whether he can help with the mulled wine.

LB

<p>Additionally, enquiries had been made of the new Quiz Group about a quiz and the Committee is awaiting confirmation as to whether one can be included from Monica. LB is also awaiting a response from Moseley & Kings Heath u3a about the involvement of a choir to sing at the party.</p>	LB
<p>PG suggested holding a competition to identify Committee members and IG Leaders from photos of them in 1970s/1980s. Photos would need to be provided by committee for the November meeting. In the meantime, PG would approach IGLs</p>	Committee PG
<p>13. Purchase of mugs for St Joseph's (LB) As agreed at the September Committee meeting, plastic boxes for the storage of biscuits have now been purchased at the cost of £4.50.</p> <p>In addition, as discussed at that meeting, LB had purchased a u3a mug in order to consider whether they would be suitable for use at meetings. It was agreed that the mug itself was suitable, and LB advised that 80 mugs would cost £345 including VAT and delivery. LB will investigate further whether there was sufficient storage space available in the lockable cupboard at St Josephs.</p>	LB
<p>14. Membership (ML) There are currently 292 members, including 4 new members.</p> <p>ML has removed details from Beacon in respect of one email that had bounced back, referred to her by LC, as agreed at the September meeting.</p> <p>ML reported that u3a is replacing the use of Sitebuilder with Wordpress and that she had responded to a request in TAM for volunteers to be involved in the project. She had participated in one Zoom meeting so far. U3a is looking for u3a groups to be involved as test sites and ML suggested that KNu3a's involvement would give her an opportunity to keep an eye on developments and flexibility. It was agreed that she should seek involvement of KNu3a as a test site.</p>	ML
<p>15. Newsletter (HK) HK reported that she had produced 4 editions of the newsletter this year in view of the events of the year – Jubilee celebrations and the u3a 40th anniversary. However, it is likely that she will revert to 3 editions a year due to a lack of response for contributions. She had received only 2 contributions for the last newsletter. It was suggested that the Creative Writing Group could be asked to produce pieces with a Christmas theme.</p>	HK
<p>16. Assets List (LB) LB stated that she is trying to locate the lists produced previously by Jenny Snashall for KNu3a's assets and keyholding. JS had created 2 excel spreadsheets. CL will check information passed to him by JS and let LB know.</p>	CL
<p>17. AOB CL sought clarification for the process and timescale for deciding membership fees for next year. He was advised that he should propose a level for fees</p>	CL

November/December, the Committee would decide in December and inform the members in January.

18. Date of next meeting

2pm Tuesday 15 November at Bournville Quaker Meeting House

The meeting ended at 16.00

Draft