

Kings Norton & District



Minutes of the Committee Meeting Wednesday 14 December 2022

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

<p>1. Welcome & Apologies (VH) VH welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies from Linda Curry and Chris Locke.</p> <p>2. Linda Curry (LB) LB advised that Linda was currently unavailable to engage in u3a matters due to ill health. She had sent her a card with best wishes from the Committee. LB will approach Linda to arrange for VH to be made an alternative signature for the bank and for paperwork to be redirected. All bills except one had been authorized for payment. LB noted that any outstanding receipts for expenses should be sent through to CL for payment. LC had taken the lead in organizing meeting speakers – all speakers required for meetings had been booked upto June, except for the meeting in May. It had previously been agreed that there should be a speaker for that meeting which will be the AGM.</p> <p>3. Minutes of the previous meeting (VH) Draft minutes of the meeting on 15 November 2022 were approved.</p> <p>4. Matters arising None not covered below</p> <p>5. Treasurer's report (CL) CL had circulated a financial report for the part year to 30 November 2022 and a summary note about Interest group activities prior to the committee meeting. There were reserves of £4,658 at end of the period and he expects reserves to be down to approximately £2,800 by the end of the year, not including any membership renewal fees. The outstanding issues concerning the hire of the Dame Elizabeth Hall by the Barn Dancing Group have been resolved.</p>	<p>LB</p>
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<p>Payment to Virginmedia for the WIFI was stopped in September. Virginmedia has responded saying that the contract is terminated 90 days after notification – so the settlement cost will be settled in February.</p>	
<p>LB will ask CL to set up a basic model for next year’s budget assuming membership fee increases of £1 and £2 to enable a full discussion at the January committee meeting.</p>	<p>LB CL</p>
<p>6. Interest Groups (PG)</p>	
<p>PG advised that Colin Loach had approached her about setting up an Art Group (“Image Shapers”) – for painting, drawing and other media. He would expect members to bring their own materials, also laptops. He is currently considering a suitable venue – possibly Bells Farm or Manningford Hall.</p>	
<p>PG will go to St Josephs to check space/layout for the IG showcase in March.</p>	<p>PG</p>
<p>There was discussion about the value, location and timing of an IG Leaders’ meeting. PG agreed to “test the water” with IGLs to see if there was interest in meeting for an exchange of experiences and a thank you to IGLs. Saturday morning (10-12) at the Navigation on 21 January was proposed for location and timing.</p>	<p>PG</p>
<p>7. Bournville Pages</p>	
<p>LC had sent an article for inclusion in the November edition but it had not appeared. LB had received a copy of that edition and although listed in the contents page, the article had not been included. Apparently they had run out of space and the article will be in the January edition. KNu3a contact details have been included on the Community page.</p>	
<p>8. December Meeting</p>	
<p>There was discussion about some learning points from the Christmas social. In general, it was agreed that more preparation time was needed – both leading upto such an event and for setting up on the day. 90 members had attended – considerably more than for recent general meetings and more than expected. It was noted that for earlier Christmas parties, members had been required to prebook. There had been problems with acoustics again – it had been difficult to hear the Creative Writing Group’s contributions. It was agreed that such events should include opportunities for members’ participation. The photo competition had been popular but there had been difficulties with crowding round the display stands – something similar would be better organised at the members’ tables in future. The quiz was very good. Perhaps party games? Paper hat/plane making competitions had been popular previously. Or a Christmas-themed speaker? There was also discussion about providing more food than just mince pies, as at previous Christmas parties. Committee members also would liked to have had music playing during the social, eg a playlist of carols, with volume adjusted as appropriate during the event.</p>	
<p>Looking forward, the Committee discussed a celebration of the Coronation taking place Saturday 6 May. Suggestions were made for a talk on the history of coronations and/or an afternoon tea for the general meeting on 2 May, which would need to fit in with arrangements/formality required for the AGM. LB had</p>	

<p>discussed issues of catering for an afternoon tea with Stella, who had suggested purchase of Morrison platters for such an event. Further consideration to be given to the May meeting arrangements.</p>	Committee
<p>9. Showcase March 2023 Discussion postponed until next Committee meeting.</p>	
<p>10. Membership (ML) There are currently 296 members, no joiners since last meeting. ML noted that this was generally a quiet period for new membership – after October/November people tended to wait until February/March to join. She did not think that the problems with the website would have impacted significantly on membership applications.</p>	
<p>LB would check with CL for details of the renewal process timeline which she thought Paul Smith had drawn up. The level of fees and timing of renewal would need to be decided in January, in order to notify members by email/letter by end of March? Payments received March/April? Reminder April?</p>	LB
<p>11. Review of current publicity material On tidying store cupboard, LB had found supplies of publicity material: business cards, postcards and folded leaflets (LB to check whether latter are National or KNu3a). The Committee needed to decide how each of them were going to be used and whether they needed more of any of them.</p>	LB
<p>PG stated that after the new year she would be having a bit of a publicity drive – asking new venues to display KNu3a publicity material, giving them leaflets (with information about IGs) and postcards. She suggested publicity material could be given to foodbanks and GP surgeries. BB noted that “social prescribing” by GPs required a person to liaise, and there needs to be safeguards to avoid GPs sending people that the u3a cannot “care for”.</p>	PG
<p>ML stated that she would update the folded leaflet with forthcoming speaker details and reprint them.</p>	ML
<p>12. Website (ML) ML advised that the website was back up and working but photographs and files had been lost and were unlikely to come back. ML had reinstated files where she had copies. Some IG Groups had already put some material back up. VH agreed that IGLs should be approached for copies, or accept that they start afresh, recognizing that some IGLs would be disappointed.</p>	VH
<p>The website has now been transferred. BB noted that she had attended a Zoom meeting concerning transfer issues, details of which attendees had been asked to keep confidential.</p>	
<p>13. U3a mugs (LB) As previously agreed, LB had purchased 80 u3a mugs, which had been used at the Christmas social. Several members had asked if they could purchase them. The Committee agreed LB’s proposal of purchasing 20 at a cost of £4.25 each for sale at £5.00, subject to CL’s agreement. It was suggested that, if agreed, the mugs could be taken to the February general meeting for sale at reception desk. Depending on take-up, their sale could be advertised on the website and Facebook.</p>	LB/CL

<p>14. Afternoon Tea Proposal Discussed at item 8 above.</p> <p>15. AOB HK plans to issue next edition of newsletter on 14 January and asked for any contributions to be sent to her before Christmas. LB advised that she would provide a feature on National Office.</p> <p>16. Date of next meeting 2pm Tuesday 17 January 2023 at Bournville Quaker Meeting House. [Post meeting note – further meeting arranged for 2pm on 3 January 2023 via Zoom]</p> <p>The meeting ended at 15.55.</p>	<p>HK LB</p>
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