

## Minutes of the Committee Meeting Tuesday 14 December 2021

**Present:** Linda Curry (Chair), Beryl Blood, Lorna Brown, Pauline George, Vicki Hone, Margaret Lusher, Paul Smith, Jenny Snashall, Pauline Amor.

<p><b>1. Welcome and apologies</b> LC welcomed all to the meeting. There were apologies from Helen Kempster.</p> <p><b>2. Minutes of the last meeting.</b> The minutes of the meeting on 16 November 2021 were approved.</p> <p><b>3. Matters arising</b> No matters arising that would not be dealt with later in agenda.</p> <p><b>4. Chair's report</b> LC noted that Jackie GL for the KHu3a Dancing Group would not yet be extending the existing reciprocal arrangements with KNu3a to Harborne u3a as she was anticipating that the group would be gaining more KH members.</p> <p>Otherwise there was nothing to report that would not be covered later in agenda.</p> <p><b>5. December meeting</b> 70 members attended the Christmas Social and it was agreed that spacing and queuing worked well. The committee thanked PS and JS for their efforts in sourcing and organising the provision of mince pies, raffle etc It was agreed that JS should purchase and send £25 garden gift vouchers to Stella and Sally who provide the refreshments at each general meeting, as thanks and acknowledgement of their really good job under current difficult circumstances.</p> <p><b>6. January meeting</b> Subject to prevailing restrictions at the time, Alan Hill will be giving a talk on the Two Towers on 4 January. He has provided a resume to LC and has confirmed that he will be using his own laptop and projector. His fees are £50 plus £5 travel expenses. We may consider whether the talk can go ahead using zoom if restrictions prevent a meeting at St Josephs.</p>	<p>JS</p>
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<p><b>7. Speakers for April, May &amp; July 2022</b>  LC advised that she had arranged for David Humphreys to speak at the April meeting on the History of the Hippodrome.  She is seeking a speaker on cybercrime for the AGM meeting in May, but PC McCready, who had given a talk to KHu3a was no longer contactable &amp; she had not had a response from West Midlands Police. She would attempt to contact Neighbourhood Watch next.  She further advised that she would be pursuing contact with Bob Booth for a talk about Bournville for July.</p> <p>VH has offered to take over the management of arrangements for speakers, although she did not wish to be responsible for sourcing them. LC will sort out speakers through to July 2022 before handing over details to VH.</p> <p>LC/LB/VH to arrange Zoom meeting to discuss job role descriptions for committee officers and members.</p>	<p>LC</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC/VH</p> <p>LC/LB/VH</p>
<p><b>8. Treasurer's report (JS)</b>  JS sought guidelines for expenditure using the bank debit card. It was agreed that there should be a limit for expenditure without prior authorisation but subject to subsequent reporting; and a requirement for prior permission above that limit. It was also agreed that the limit should be £100; subject to review if that level did not prove practical.</p>	
<p><b>9. Proposals for increasing Membership fees</b>  JS had prepared a proposed budget for 2022-23, reflecting increased rental costs and other increased costs.  The budget included assumptions of speaker costs of £100; provision for £800 spend for Christmas party; capitation fees of £650; WIFI £464 pa. The income in the budget was assuming the agreed increases below. It was also acknowledged that there is likely to be further upward pressure on rent and capitation fees.</p> <p>Additional income is needed to avert an unacceptable financial situation at end of year 2022-23.  LC understood that a grant from the Trust was unlikely to be available to help general funding, rather only for specific projects.</p> <p>The current membership fees of £14 (£12 associate) had not risen for the past 2 years and are low compared to other u3as eg KHu3a are £20. (Harborne's fees are £30 but the u3a finances are structured differently and the fees cover the cost of Interest Groups – and they gave their members a reduced fee of £25 during lockdown.)  After discussion about increasing the level of membership fees and/or introducing charges for refreshments at general meetings, LB proposed that membership fees be increased to £18 (£16 associate). The proposal was seconded by PS/LC/JS.</p> <p>It was agreed that renewals would not be taken at general meetings, rather online renewal would be encouraged with arrangements for cheques by post to ML. BACs and payments direct into the bank/via PO are also</p>	

<p>available. The renewal could be extended to February/March/April. Arrangements for renewal would be publicised in January.</p>	<p>ML/JS</p>
<p><b>10. Membership secretary</b> ML advised that there had been 5-6 new members join in the last month. She had not experienced any problems with arrangements for contact.</p> <p>It was agreed that she could seek advice for the purchase of an internet domain to facilitate the setting up of generic email addresses for the committee officers.</p>	<p>ML</p>
<p><b>11. Interest Groups: PG</b> PG reported that recently started groups were doing well, although activity had slowed down for the Christmas period. The dog walking group had met twice; the 2<sup>nd</sup> Philosophy Group December meeting had been cancelled this week.</p> <p>PG had been approached by a member who would like to lead (and teach) a Crown Bowls Group in Spring 2022, when the weather becomes suitable. The group would use club facilities, and the cost to individual group members would likely be more expensive than the costs for other Interest Group sessions typically run in members' homes.</p> <p>There was discussion about the subsidy of Interest Groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a subsidy available until the end of the current financial year for groups paying rent (5 groups) - subject to attending members paying £2, if there is a shortfall for the rent due, KNu3a will meet it.</li> <li>• Previously temporary subsidies have been made available for the start up of a group eg table tennis received a subsidy for 6 months, with members paying £2. That group continued to make a loss and ceased. It was agreed that the Crown Bowling group would have to be self-financing</li> </ul>	<p>PG</p> <p>LC</p>
<p>It was agreed that PG could write to all Group Leaders to wish them a good Christmas &amp; New Year and thank them for their continued help and support over the 2021 Covid year. LC intends to include a similar message in an email to all members before Christmas, along with information about the January general meeting.</p>	<p>PG</p> <p>LC</p>
<p><b>12. Interest Group Leaders meeting</b> Meetings have been arranged for Fridays 11 February &amp; 11 March. It had not been possible to arrange them for a Saturday as initially envisaged because St Joseph's hall is not available, but the dates chosen did not clash with any Interest Group meetings. VH, BB, PG and Anne Jones to attend. IGLs would be encouraged to bring their own laptops to enable them to access: 11 February – Beacon 11 March – u3a website</p>	<p>VH/BB/PG/AJ</p>
<p><b>13. Saturday workshops</b> The workshops had proved very popular on Saturdays prior to Covid, but St Joseph's hall is not available on a Saturday through to July 2022. If they</p>	

<p>are to resume on a Saturday an alternative venue would need to be found.</p> <p>There are already suggestions for a workshop on environmental issues and driving</p>	
<p><b>14. Laptop &amp; printer</b>          JS has now received the laptop and printer from Roger Jones. Whilst JS will be using the laptop, the (Canon) printer is surplus to requirements. She will check how old the printer is and the condition of inks etc, before the committee consider offering it for sale to members.</p>	<p>JS</p>
<p><b>15. AOB</b>          New members meetings – ML advised that there were approximately 10 new members who had not yet been invited to a Saturday coffee morning. VH will propose a date at the next committee meeting for the next coffee morning in January/February, subject to about 15 new members awaiting.</p>	<p>VH</p>
<p><b>16. Date of next committee meeting</b>          Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 2pm at Bournville Quaker House. [This has subsequently been changed to a zoom meeting.</p>	
<p>The meeting ended at 3.55 pm</p>	