

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Tuesday 16 November 2021

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

<p>1. Welcome and apologies LC welcomed all to the meeting. There were no apologies.</p>	
<p>2. Minutes of the last meeting. The minutes of the meeting on 19 October 2021 were approved.</p>	
<p>3. Matters arising No matters arising that would not be dealt with later in agenda.</p>	
<p>4. Chair's report Nothing to report that would not be covered later in agenda.</p>	
<p>5. November meeting It was agreed that the speaker, Andy Bishop, had been excellent. 72 members had attended and some membership fees collected.</p>	
<p>There had been a problem with queuing for tea/coffee, as the queue had backed back into the small room used for reception. In future HK will act as a steward to encourage members to enter the main hall and queue for refreshments from the opposite direction. There had also been an issue with members entering via the rear doors. There will be "No Entry" notices placed at the rear doors and close attention paid to preventing entry.</p>	<p>HK</p>
<p>There was also discussion about the difficulties encountered in the "meet and greet" of new members.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p>It was agreed that a new members pack, as used by other u3as, would be a good idea.</p>	<p>ML</p>
<p>6. December meeting. Arrangements for the Christmas social were confirmed:</p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS to source 100 mince pies, including vegetarian 	<p>PS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS to source napkins & table clothes 	<p>PS</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allan Walmsley (AW) to provide mulled wine 	<p>AW</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VH has c 70 paper cups & will source 30 more 	<p>VH</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS to source 10 raffle prizes with a cost cap of £100 	<p>PS</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JS to source raffle tickets • AW has confirmed that he will provide a quiz • PS to liaise with Alan Keepax about providing background Christmas music. PS will purchase a CD of carols for u3a use. <p>LC will liaise with AW about his requirements for serving the mulled wine (does he need pans/slow cookers from others?) and how he plans to organise the quiz (and how that might impact the layout of the hall).</p> <p>It was agreed that members would be encouraged to wear festive clothing. Also that the social would be limited to existing members only – no visitors or guests.</p> <p>LC will email members about the arrangements for the Christmas social and HK will include a short piece in the newsletter.</p>	<p>JS AW PS</p> <p>LC</p> <p>LC/HK</p>
<p>7. Andy Roberts On the recommendation of Stuart Andrews, Andy Roberts (AR) had been asked to make recommendations and quote for improvements for the u3a's PA system at the Church Hall,</p> <p>LB has now received his suggestions with a quote for a range of products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover for existing mike (windshield) to enable sound to be heard more clearly - £2 • New mike - £45 • Radio hand-held mike - £60 • New base stand - £30 • New speaker box - £280 <p>PS will source 2 windshields – as mike is used by more than one person.</p> <p>Otherwise it was agreed to wait until after the January 2022 meeting, when further checks can be made to see how the current system works for a guest speaker (particularly across the whole of the meeting hall). LB will advise AR accordingly.</p>	<p>PS</p> <p>LB</p>
<p>8. Treasurer's report (JS) Total bank balance is £4155.49. JS is to order more publicity leaflets, with new contact details. It was agreed that, in the New Year, it would be sensible to consider purchasing a web domain, and set up contacts for the Chair, Membership and Business Secretaries. Those contacts could be used on the website and Membership contact on the publicity leaflets.</p> <p>9. Membership secretary - Non email members correspondence ML has purchased envelopes & stamps for correspondence with members who do not have access to email. HK has also printed off & purchased stamps to send paper copies of the newsletter to those members.</p> <p>There are currently 11 members on record for whom no email address is held on Beacon. LB to contact those members where there is no recent information that they are without access to email.</p>	<p>LB</p>

Once identified, ML agreed to distribute the hard copies of circulated items to non-email members.

ML

10. Interest Groups: PG

PG reported developments on several new or resumed groups:

- Crafternoon (Week 3, Friday 2-4pm at St Joseph's) had had a 3rd successful meeting. Sharing the hall with the Board games Group works well.
- Philosophy (Week 2 Monday 10am at Leader's House) has had a successful 1st meeting. Very popular with 10 members already, with a waiting list.
- Art Appreciation & History 2nd group for new members (Week 2 Tuesday 2-4pm at Leader's House)
- Dog Walking (Week 3 Thursday 10-11.30am) has had its 1st very successful meeting – 6 members brought 8 dogs
- Climate Change Action Group (Week 3 Thursday 2-4pm at Leader's House) will start up again.
- Sewing & Textiles (Week 1 Thursday 10am-3pm & week 3 Thursday 10am-1pm at Leader's House) is resumed. Limit of 5 members, possibility of a 2nd group.
- Recorder Group (Week 4 Friday 2.30-4pm at St Joseph's) to start on 28 January 2022. Leader is looking for members interested in practising/playing the recorder.

PG stated that help was also needed to start other groups, where members (especially new members) had expressed interest in: Art Group, Poetry Reading Group, Exercise Group, Day Trip Events, Learn Spanish via Youtube.

It was noted & accepted that there were particular issues concerning insurance for the organisation of an Exercise Group.

ML requested details about the new/resumed groups in order to update the website, including a section on "breaking news".

PG/ML

11. Newsletter (HK)

HK stated that the deadline for contributions for the next newsletter is 30 November.

Items planned are:

- Contributions from the Chair; on COVID safety from PG; on Talking News from ML and Amazon Smile donation from JS
- Birmingham University research project on support for older people who pay for social care – using the poster provided by the university researchist (poster updated post committee meeting).
- Interest Groups:- 2 pieces from the Travel Group; also pieces from Architecture; Museum Visits; Flower Arranging and Bird Watching Groups. Possibly photos from the Dog Walking Group
- Eco matters

- 2 Christmas quizzes

12. Speaker Secretary

Tony Field has stepped down due to other commitments.
 PS to obtain file re speaker programme details and projector from him.
 It was agreed that the role of Speaker Secretary would be carried out across the committee.

PS

LC confirmed the forthcoming programme of speakers as:

January – The Two Towers

February – Clent Hill

March – TBA

April – TBA (planned speaker for The Little Black Dress, but no response)

May – AGM ; but speaker also required

June – Cavalier Dogs

LC agreed to investigate speakers for March, April and the May AGM

LC

Also on file possible talks by

- Andy Simon – Model Aircraft for Oct/Nov 2022 – decision not to pursue by committee
- Bob Booth – various talks re Bournville
- Bobby Derbyshire – Where do novelists get their ideas from. Fees negotiable but lives in London and will want expenses. There is an operating KNU3A limit of £150 for fees & travelling expenses
- David Humphreys – No 11 route

It was agreed that we should consider talk on Cybercrime.

LC had already talked to Kings Heath about recommended talks, and would pursue Harborne to see if they have anything to contribute

LC

13. Saturday workshops

PG noted that she'd had offers to give a talk by a member.

JS is to check whether the hall is available to restart workshops.

Further discussion deferred to the next committee meeting.

JS

14. Keys

There are 4 sets of keys for the display boards cupboard – JS has 1 set and LB will put the other 3 sets in the new hallway cupboard. Keys to the latter cupboard are held by PS, JS, Stella Woods (refreshments) & Monica Page (Board Games Group). JS to get 2 more sets, 1 to be held by PS for access to the projector (to be returned to that cupboard).

LB

JS

15. AOB

None

16. Date of next committee meeting

Tuesday 14 December at 2pm at **St Joseph & St Helen's Church Hall.**

The meeting ended at 4.05 pm