

KINGS NORTON u3a

Minutes of the meeting of 17th October 2023

Present: Vicki Hone (chair), Chris Locke, Pauline George, Lorna Brown, Beryl Blood, Helen Kempster.

1.Welcome and apologies VH

VH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Pauline Amor and Margaret Lusher.

2. Minutes of the October committee meeting VH

Corrections to the Minutes:

Item 3: £60 had been raised at the Garden Party. Item 7: CL had applied for gift aid.

The minutes were then accepted.

3. Matters arising VH

Access Policy: VH would circulate the new policy to IG leaders, reassuring them that using private homes was still going to be possible.

Publicity: Jan Wadham had discussed publicity ideas with VH but did not wish to take on a formal role with u3a. Following ML's email to members for help with social media, Jackie Johnson had taken on the Facebook pages. It was agreed that the table publicising other organizations would be called the Community Table. Only items from non profit organizations would be publicised.

Word Press: very few developments: ML would provide VH and LB with demo software. No one came forward following ML's request for help with the website.

4. Chair's Report VH

Barclays: VH had received a bank card and hoped to be able to authorise on line payments.

Network: There had been confusion at Kings Heath u3a about the difference between full and associate membership, hopefully, this was now resolved. At the next network meeting, VH would suggest that the three interest group co-ordinators hold a meeting to share ideas.

5. **Arrangements for the Christmas party** VH/All

VH has established an events team for the Xmas party:

VH, Lynda Wynne, Irene Nicholls.

The committee discussed the costs of using commercial caterers or buying platters from Morrisons. It was agreed that, as it was considerably cheaper, food would be bought from Morrisons.

It was agreed that:

1. Advance booking required
2. £5 per head (u3a subsidy about £5)
3. Events Team would publicise the event.
4. **LB** would liaise with ML to email/mail all members explaining the arrangements. Tickets to be available at the November general meeting.
5. **CL** would book St Joseph's Hall from 12.00-4.00
6. **LB** to ask Allan W to provide mulled wine.
7. **VH** would use detailed programme from 2022 as a basis for planning.
8. **Roger** and **Monica** to be asked to provide the quiz.
9. **ML** to read out quiz questions.
10. Balsall Comon u3a swing band to be invited to play.
11. **LB** to check performing rights for the hall.
12. No Xmas Hat or Jumper competition.
13. **VH** to check current supply of napkins, plates, paper cups at St Joseph's.

6. **Treasurer's Report** CL

CL presented the monthly accounts and commentary. There was £2.5k more in the account than the same period last year. Anticipated big increases in room rental costs have not yet occurred, but may over the winter. Closing the wi-fi account saved £30 per month. CL observed that paying considerably more for speakers had markedly improved quality.

Current balance: £6,909.48.

7. **Membership and renewals** LB on behalf of ML

294 members. The committee agreed to hold a recruitment drive in the spring and discuss a new members coffee morning at the next meeting.

8. **Interest Groups** PG
New Italian group had 12 regular members and may move to the Bull's Head, Kings Norton Green, as it is quieter. A member had offered to lead a IT users group, PG awaited developments. A leader was needed for a third philosophy group and for Spanish.
9. **Taster sessions to expand membership** VH
Roger Jones had asked for clarification of non-members attendance at interest group sessions. Current insurance cover does not allow non - members at I Gs. There may be problems for leaders where groups are very full or well established, if some appears very briefly.
It was agreed that there would be no change to the rules.
PG would remind IG leaders of the arrangements.
10. **Publicity materials** LB
LB suggested that at the next meeting the committee review the available publicity materials and consider buying more, in preparation for the membership drive. **VH** and **LB** would check the cupboard at St Joseph's.
11. **Speaker bookings, possible need for guidelines** VH
Following feed back from members, following the legal speaker at a recent general meeting, it was agreed that speakers with commercial connections would not be invited.
12. **Any other business**
It was agreed that **LB** would ask for the circulation figures of Bournville and South Birmingham Pages.

Date of next meeting:

2 pm Tuesday 21st November.