Kings Norton and district u3a

Minutes of the committee meeting

Tuesday 20th February 2024

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

Allan Walmsley, national vice-chair, spoke at the beginning of the meeting about the proposed national u3a council, the reasons for the need for new structure and the way local u3as would be able in influence decisions in the future.

1. **VH welcomed** everyone to the meeting.
   Apologies were receive from Pauline Amor.

2. **Minutes of the meeting** of January.
   The minutes were accepted.

3. **Matters arising**. VH
   Item 5: VH and PG would be attending the regional meeting at Balsall Common.
   Jean Jackson, regional trustee for the West Midlands, has agreed to speak at the AGM in June 2024. LB would contact Stella about additional catering eg cakes, for the AGM. LB
   Publicity: LB had successfully downloaded posters from the Brand centre site.
   ML would see if more appropriate photos could be added. ML

4. **Chair's report**. VH
   VH had attended the Monthly Chair's Forum. The proposed council was discussed. Chairs did not agree with each other over the level of control each u3a could have over the contents of the constitutions. There was considerable variation in the level of Annual Membership fees across the country.

   LB would check the periods of office of current committee members and the requirements of the constitution and circulate the information LB

   A local network meeting would take place in early March. Chairs, secretaries and interest group leaders would be invited.

5. **Treasurer's Report**. CL
   Cl had circulated the monthly accounts and commentary.
   Gift Aid: CL would ask Pete Miller and Alan Kippax to complete the letters confirming that they were no longer in office and authorising the changes.
   PayPal: ML would not offer PayPal as a way to renew subscriptions as the account was still not accessible. ML

(Treasurer's Report continued.)
It was agreed that CL would buy discounted stamps from another charity. CL
All second class: 100 for membership, 20 for Jane Evans, 30 for newsletter distribution.

6. **Interest Groups**. PG
The new group, IT Crowd, had met for the second time.
Ideally a new, cheap, venue would provide more space but meetings will continue at leader's house.
Sign Language group would meet for the first time on 26th February. One member is a wheel chair user so an accessible venue is required.
Philosophy of life meets for the first time on 7th March, at the Bull's Head.
PG will attend all the meetings. She will send ML posters about the groups for the website. PG
Peter Rookes has resigned as Group leader for Ballet and Theatre. At present no one else is leading the group.

7. **Membership**. ML
There are 298 members.
The renewal process would start at the beginning of March. ML would take a box for renewals to the March and April general meetings. New members joining in March would have 13 months membership.
ML would claim every second ink cartridge, she needs, as expenses. ML

8. **Beacon**. AJ
AJ will continue to send out information about Beacon training dates. AJ
She is starting a monthly back up of the system, onto her laptop.
Standard email messages are now available on Beacon.

9. **Siteworks**. ML
The first new local data has arrived. Plain text, photos, documents and contacts have been transferred. The site may go live on 20th March, with one or two weeks to tidy up the details.
ML would bring her lap top to the next committee meeting to demonstrate the new site. ML

IG leaders will be able to up date the descriptions of their groups. From early April it will be possible to scroll through photos. IG leaders will need training to used their pages.

10. **Any other business**.
LB would ask Bournville Pages to remove the Theatre group from the u3a entry. LB
General meetings: it was agreed that the Kitchen Team needed access to the kitchen from 1.30. CL would could Lorraine at St Joseph's to confirm. CL
Policy documents on the website: it was agreed that the documents required by the Charity Commission should be reviewed prior to posting on the website.
LB would circulate a copy of the Safeguarding Policy for future discussion. LB
CL would look at the Finance document and VH Equality and Diversity. CL/VH
Other documents to follow.

The meeting ended at 4.25.
The next meeting: 2pm Tuesday 20th March. Bournville Quaker Meeting House.