Balsall Common U3A

Minutes of the 7th Annual Meeting held on Monday 22nd April 2013 in the Village Hall at 2pm

There were 84 members and I visitor present and Mary Dawson chaired the meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence had been received from eight members.

2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 23rd April 2012**

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Chairman's Review**

Mary Dawson welcomed everyone to the meeting. She also welcomed new members and hoped that the meeting would provide an insight into how the group operated. She was pleased that membership at the end of the year had exceeded 200 for the first time. The fame of the group was spreading as we endeavoured to promote good fellowship and new experiences, based on shared knowledge and understanding. She was delighted that the previous Questers and Garden Visits groups could be said to be combined in the Out and About group so ably and enthusiastically led by Peter Calver. Similarly, the Film Discussion group, co-ordinated by Steve Procter was proving very popular, so much so that we had made a contribution to the purchase of blackout blinds by the village hall committee. The photography group had shown their expertise in the displays of their work. There had been some stunning photographs on show at the village hall and at the library. She repeated her request for any member who had a special interest and would be interested in setting up a new group to make it known and information could be circulated, via our excellent website and a new group could come into being. It could be seasonal or occasional, depending on the weather or other factors. Mary said that she was still hoping for a swimming group to be formed with the use of a local pool. She had been offered a session at 7am or a fee of £10 per person, neither of which appealed to her.

Mary continued, saying that, supported by committee members, she had attended the regional and cluster group meetings and she reported back to the committee and the core meeting on any significant matters. She gave particular thanks to Pam Moss who was retiring from the committee. Pam had issued the invaluable three-monthly diaries, which were so useful. As a mark of the group’s appreciation, she presented her with a bouquet of flowers. Pam responded suitably. She also thanked Maureen Watson, who had sometimes had to struggle to co-ordinate a team to organise the refreshments; thanks were also due to her band of helpers. Similarly, thanks were due to Martin Richards for organising the ‘heavy mob’ who set up the furniture for the meetings. Alan and Richard were mindful of the finances and Sandra had produced some excellent speakers on a variety of topics. Peter had created and maintained our excellent website and Geoff kept us all in order. She hoped that the committee continued with their good works and she thanked them for their diligence and support throughout the year, a year that she thought had been a very good one for Balsall Common U3A.

The Chairman's report was accepted.

5. **Treasurer's Report and Accounts**

Alan Buckland said that the accounts were in a healthy state and**,** as in previous years, they had been scrutinised by Steve Procter, who did not believe any modifications should be made to the financial information presented for the financial year. Alan said that he did not propose to go through the accounts in detail; they would be available on the website for those with internet access. Any member who wished to see the accounts and/or to see their detailed make-up could do so by approaching him.

Alan said that there were two accounts: the No 1 account covers activities common to all members and contained the income from subscriptions and any other group receipts, with group expenditure, such as hall hire, speakers' fees and the capitation payment to the Third Age Trust allocated to it. The No 2 account included income and expenditure for the interest groups, which were expected to be self-financing. The No 1 account showed an excess of expenditure over income last year of approximately £800 (this was deliberate and planned) and the cash balance currently stood at c£3,400. The No 2 account had a balance of c£2,200. Of this, some c£1,200 related to groups (not all groups put money through the accounts) and c£1,000 was treated as a reserve. This reserve had largely been generated from the refreshment money received since 2006, but, as the committee had decided not to charge for refreshments for core meetings in future, there would be an effect on the balance in coming years.

In terms of expenditure, most of the capital items had been bought in 2006 when the group was established, with the help of grants. There would be a need to replace/update equipment as it came to the end of its useful life*.* Hence the need to maintain a reserve in both accounts.

The Treasurer's report was received.

6. **Election of Executive Committee and Auditor**

Geoff Kennedy said that one nomination, duly proposed and seconded, had been received for each post on the Executive Committee. These were as follows:

Chairman	Mary Dawson
Treasurer	Alan Buckland
Secretary	Geoff Kennedy
Committee Members	Richard Davis
	Sandra Heard
	Peter Calver
	Martin Richards

Geoff said that, although Martin Richards had returned to the committee to replace Pam Moss, it was important for the effective running of the group that new members joined the committee. He asked anyone interested seriously to consider putting themselves forward at a future election.

The duly nominated and seconded individuals were elected by the meeting to the Executive Committee, without opposition.

The meeting also re-appointed Steve Procter as Auditor.

7. Other Business

As no motions had been put forward for discussion and here being no points of other business, the meeting was closed at 2.15pm.