

Thursday 6th March
Balsall Common u3a Executive Committee Meeting
St Peter's Church Hall
3.45pm -5.30pm

In attendance

Matthew Stephens (MS), John Bolt (JB), David Thomas (DT), Sandra Heard (SH), Juliet Hancox (JH), Liz Cowley (LC), Sheila Jones (SJ), Mick Gill (MG), June Slatter (JS)

1. Apologies

Jayne Taylor, Mike Fairbrother

4 & 5. Date of the May Core Meeting and the AGM

(This item and item 11 were brought forward to allow JB to leave the meeting early)
After a discussion it was agreed to hold the AGM on Thursday June 5th, before the planned core meeting. The previous proposed AGM date was to be before the May core meeting. This decision was made as a result of some confusion over the date of the core meeting for May. The new date ensures that the departing Chair, MS, can be present and avoids a clash with the Swing Band performance which limits available room in the hall. LC is awaiting confirmation from the Swing Band as to which date, May 1st or May 8th, they will be able to perform. MS offered to contact the band if the matter wasn't resolved shortly.

11. Correspondence

- (a) Correspondence address. MS and JB have responded to complaints from St Peter's Hall representatives regarding u3a mail being addressed to the Hall, rather than to the Secretary. It appears that although our website does not cite St Peter's Hall as a correspondence address, correspondents have made that assumption as the Hall is used for meetings. Action. JB to ensure the Treasurer's address is added to the website for future correspondence. Subsequent to the meeting, the webmaster has been contacted and asked to add this information to the "Contacts" page.
- (b) Solihull Council Older Adults event in Dorridge on 15th April. JS confirmed that this was the same team she has been in correspondence with, following another, identical event. She has asked to be kept informed of future events local to Balsall Common. JH offered to take the Group Notice Board to the event. Action. JS to chase the Older Adults Team to ensure we are included in future event planning.

2. Minutes of Meeting held on 2nd January 2025. The minutes were approved as a true record.

3. Matters Arising.

- 4(a). JS confirmed that a follow up survey of members would be carried out later in the year.
- (5). JS confirmed that she had spoken to Maureen Bradford from Olton u3a. Circumstances have changed, and Maureen has since left Olton to join South Solihull u3a, however, she is still willing to help support the development of a new website on

SiteWorks for Balsall Common. JS emphasised the importance of Group Coordinators being “on board” in their support of the website. After discussion it was agreed to identify someone from our u3a to work alongside Maureen. SH suggested a new member who may be interested. Action. SH to approach the new member.

(8). Action. JS to send her outstanding committee role description to JB in the form of bullet points.

(9b). JH and JS confirmed they had attended the zoom meeting with the new CEO Iain Cassidy. JH has circulated her notes of the meeting.

(10f(a)). JS reported that BC radio have asked if someone from the u3a would be prepared to come onto the broadcast. JH confirmed she was willing.

(10f(d)). JS confirmed that she will order the Canva Pro software to enable more professional publicity.

(10(i)). MG confirmed a provisional date of April 4th at the village hall for PAT testing.

6. Group Coordinators Meeting. JH confirmed that the notes have been circulated for the Group Coordinators meeting held at the end of January. Positive feedback has been received.

7. New and Potential Groups.

- (c) Ballroom Dancing. JH reported that the new Group has 24 members signed up. The group is meeting on Friday mornings in the Methodist Church Hall. A minimum of 10 attendees are needed to cover the hall hire and refreshments. The instructor is very knowledgeable and has provided details of his insurance cover. Members pay £12.50 each for a 2-hour session (£2.50 to the u3a for the hall hire, and £10 to the instructor). 17 attended the last session.
- (d) Golf. MG confirmed that he had 5 potential members for the new proposed group. However, there is no consensus on the type of golf to be played, or the frequency. Committee members suggested that there may be more people interested in a u3a Golf group if it was clearer that this would be an occasional activity, and not replacing members existing Golf sessions. It was also suggested it may be helpful to conduct a poll of people who have expressed an interest, asking what type of Golf they prefer. Action. MG to email out to members again.

9. Meeting with Olton and District u3a. MS confirmed that the meeting would be going ahead on 24th April 2025. Three or four committee members are required. Subsequent to the meeting, DT confirmed his attendance at this event.

10. Social events

- (a) Quiz night- Saturday 15th March. MG reported that 50 people had signed up so far. (73 people attended last year's quiz). Action. MG to purchase prizes. MS to approach Jo Robinson to open up the event to Olton. MG to advertise event to members again.
- (b) Picnic in the Park- Saturday 21st June. MS has 21 volunteers signed up so far.
- (c) Dance/Supper - Saturday 5th July. A subcommittee comprising MS, DT, SH, JH (JB unavailable) to meet after today's committee meeting.
- (d) Race Night - MG has proposed Friday 14th November at the Village Hall.

12. Reports

- (a) Written reports were received from the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Groups Liaison, and Risk Trustee.
- (b) Membership Secretary. SH reported that we have 16 new members so far this year., with an additional 3 pending. A new members coffee morning will be held on Tuesday 8th April from 10am to 12 at the White Horse – 2-3 Coordinators to be encouraged to attend. 77 members attended the core meeting today. SH has been contacted by the webmaster who wants to change the password to the membership area. He has recommended that anyone wanting to view the area in the future would need to make a request for the password from the membership secretary. The committee discussed the nature of the documents in the members area and agreed that they could all be made publicly available (with a question mark over an archive of historic photographs). Action. SH to contact the webmaster and ask for the rationale and GDPR implications behind his recommendations.
- (c) Speakers Secretaries. LC and SJ reported that the core meetings programme is booked up until January 2026. They asked for clarification on how payment should be made, to a speaker talking on behalf of a charity, who has requested that the fee goes to the charity. DT confirmed that as a charity ourselves, we cannot make a payment directly to another charity. The payment will be made to the speaker, who can then choose to make a donation if they wish to. It was agreed that a donation box could be made available on the day, for audience donations. SJ asked whether a replacement “hook-on” microphone could be purchased to replace the existing one which is not working. DT confirmed that the purchase could be made. Action. SJ to contact Peter Calver for further advice on the purchase. A request has been made for a speaker to talk to members about online scams. This follows several members receiving a recent scam email after a members account was hacked. LC has been contacted by a potential speaker who will talk for 40mins on the subject and then take questions. The charge would be a £60 speakers fee, and the venue cost. It was agreed by the committee that this subject would be suitable for a one-off workshop, like the first aid workshops held last year. Action LC and SJ to investigate further and propose a venue and date.

13. Any Other Business. MS reported that Prime Numbers will be playing at the White Horse on Sat 8th March.

14. Date of next meeting will be May 1st or 8th, the date being dependent on discussions with the Swing Band. Finalisation of arrangements for the AGM will be the main item.

Signed..........Date.....28/7/25.....