

Balsall Common U3A

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 4pm on Thursday 1st December 2016 St Peters Hall, Balsall Common

Present: Jim Melville (JM), Alan Buckland (AB), Peter Calver (PC), Mary Dawson (MD) & Lynn Brinkworth (LB)

1. Apologies for Absence:

Martin Richards (MR), Margaret Burleigh (MB), Richard Drake (RD) & Jan Baylis (JB)

2. Minutes Secretary

LB took the minutes

3. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Thursday 4th August 2016

The minutes of the meeting, which were approved on 6th October, were signed.

4. Draft Minutes of the Committee Meetings held on Thursday 6th October 2016

The draft minutes had been circulated and were approved and signed.

Matters arising:

Third Age Online Survey has been completed by JM

Wording regarding members from other U3As to be adopted as per Appendix 2 of the agenda for the October meeting. (attached to these minutes as Appendix 1)

PAT testing still in hand with RD

5. Correspondence

Correspondence from Anthony Randall regarding: Treasurers Workshop; Deafness Awareness Workshop Dec 5th; online mental health research request; Vale of Berkeley Railway; publicity, donations and offers of talks; Stone U3A's support request; sleep problems research request and 'How to Promote your Book' presentation had all been passed to the relevant Committee Members and circulated to members.

Correspondence from 3rd Age Trust regarding MOOCs Workshop in Exeter.

6. Reports

Treasurer (RD not at meeting but he had submitted his report)

U3A Finances remain very healthy. We have over £5k in our No 1 account and over £2k in the No 2 account.

RD attended the U3A Treasurers Workshop in Birmingham recently. Two main items to note:

Firstly it confirmed our decision to no longer claim Gift Aid is the correct one for us.

Secondly, there will be a launch of the "Beacon" system that is being trialled for U3A administration and finance early next year. This could be helpful to us so worth some of us going to any events when they are published.

Steve Procter is proposing a new sound system primarily for the Film & Music Appreciation groups to be paid out of Film Group funds. RD confirmed that these funds were available and is happy to go with Steve's recommendation. It was agreed to approve the purchase of a Riva Turbo X Portable Bluetooth Loudspeaker at a cost of approximately £300, to be borne by the Film Group. PC requested that an Induction Loop also be included and the committee agreed this. He thought the cost would possibly be covered by HO but if not our U3A funds could be used. JM will ask Steve Procter to action this when he places his order.

We received a request for a refund of £25 from the 5 people who cancelled coming to

the quiz quite late. With earlier notice we could have filled these places. However, we will still make a profit and RD recommended we meet this request. It was discussed and agreed that on this occasion they will be refunded and in addition the other person who couldn't attend because he was ill should also be refunded. A cancellation policy for future events was discussed and it was agreed that there will be a cut-off date beyond which there will be no reimbursement. (RD suggests - unless we can fill the space(s).

Secretary

Nothing to add to the details of correspondence received.

Speakers' Secretary

LB reported that she has started booking speakers for the 2017/18 programme.

Membership and Publicity

PC reported that current membership stands at 293. We have had 31 new members since April and 14 since the last New Members' Coffee Morning.

The last edition of Third Age Matters had included features on the Big Band and our 10th Anniversary. The Bugle had featured the 10th Anniversary and had a good number of our Photography Group members' pictures.

PC proposes that when the Band has agreed a name (and subject to Nick's approval) he will send Nick's article to the next Bugle and the Solihull News.

We discussed how we could celebrate/acknowledge the 300th Member.

There was an agenda item 'U3A news to Anne Santos'. It was confirmed that all information is already sent to Anne.

Groups Co-ordinator

MD reported that Jazz Appreciation, Band and Mahjong would all welcome new members.

There are now 5 people on a waiting list for Current Affairs so MD is contacting them to suggest that they form a new Group. The co-ordinators of the existing Current Affairs Group have offered their assistance in getting a new Group going.

The French Conversation Group is going again.

The Wind Group is on hold as Jim Stammers has other commitments at present. When it is set to go it will be advertised to other U3As and run on the same lines as the Big Band.

MD will organise another New Members' Coffee Morning when there are a few more than the current 14.

7. Social Event – Quiz Night 18th November

The evening had been well received and feedback was generally positive. Note for future events to specify it is Bring Your Own drink and glasses. It was agreed to hold another Social event next year.

8. 2017 Dates for St Peters Hall, Village Hall and Westlake Room and Westlake Room Concerns (Mahjong Group)

All dates for all Halls were confirmed.

PC had noted that some Mahjong dates clashed with NDP meeting dates. RD chairs the NDP and had confirmed that he would organise an alternative venue for those.

The Mahjong Group had experienced some problems with emails from the Booking Secretary of the Village Hall over doors and windows left open, boilers and heating left on and being in the Westlake Room at unauthorised times. Most of these things, reported by the cleaner, had not been the fault of the Mahjong Group. JM asked if a meeting between the Booking Secretary, himself and the Mahjong Group Co-ordinator, Sue Simms, would be useful. LB will suggest this to Sue and report back if she thinks it would be helpful.

9. Succession Planning

MR, PC and AB must leave the Committee at the next AGM. Two new potential Committee Members have already come forward – Linda White and John Peat.

10. Solihull Cluster Meeting (26 October)

JM attended but there was nothing to report.

11. AOB

No AOB

12. Dates and time of future Committee Meetings

There will be Committee Meetings following the February and April Core Meetings. It is possible that there may have to be a meeting following the May Core Meeting to prepare for the AGM in June. (JB to action please)

Appendix 1

Balsall Common U3A's Policy on how Members of Other U3As be charged

Where a member of another U3A wishes to attend a Balsall Common U3A interest group they will not need to pay any membership fee. However, their attendance would be at the discretion of the Interest Group Co-ordinator and any costs associated with attendance of the interest group would be payable.

Where a member of another U3A wishes to be a "Full Associate Member" attending core meetings and having full membership rights they will pay a full renewal membership fee for Balsall Common U3A, subject to a reduction of £3.50 (as a member of another U3A their capitation is already covered). Currently, this would be £6.50.