Balsall Common U3A

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 3.30pm on Monday 22nd October 2012 at the Village Hall, Station Road

Present: Mary Dawson (MD) in the chair, Richard Davis (RD), Geoff Kennedy (GK), Peter Calver (PC), Sandra Heard (SH), Pam Moss (PM).

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Santos and Alan Buckland.

2. Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 23rd July 2012

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

(i) U3A AGM

MD and Alan Buckland (AB) had attended the U3A National AGM on 12th September held at the National Agricultural College, Cirencester.

(ii) Jubilee Celebration

MD said that she understood that donations had been made from the Jubilee Fund to the local Scouts, Brownies and Guides.

(iii) Bank Signatories

It was understood that the necessary changes had been processed and the revised list of signatories was fully operable.

(iv) Film Study

The first meeting of the group had been held and been reasonably successful. It was necessary to come up with suggested films to consider- some members had not liked the first one; however, the aim as to discuss the films, not to watch them as entertainment.

(v) Craft Group

It was noted that Jane Cooper had taken over as co-ordinator for the group.

4. New Group- Out and About

PC had raised at the core meeting the possible establishment of a group called ‘Out and About' which would undertake visits to particular attractions, generally by coach. Examples of possible trips were: Bletchley Park, Chatsworth and a Thames boat trip. The response was positive and he proposed arranging three trips in 2013, from Spring onwards. The committee agreed that PC should proceed with the establishment of the group.

5. Statistics

PC tabled a statistical report covering April to October 2012. The average attendance at the five core meetings from May to September had been 62, with current membership up to 181. The attendance at the October meeting earlier in the day had been 71. Some 53 members had not attended any of the five core meetings. There were also 27 members who appeared not to be a member of any group. GK said that four membership applications had been received that day, bringing total membership to 185. He passed the cheques to RD.

PC said that the deadline for copy for the next edition of the Bugle was imminent. He asked members to let him know if they had any material that they thought would be suitable for publication. The photography and craft groups were likely to have exhibitions at Christmas.

6. Spring Luncheon

MD said that there were some 80 members who had signed up for the lunch in March. It was her intention to prepare a table plan which would only be available on the day. The aim would be to sit some near friends but also to mix members a little. The committee were happy for MD to prepare the table plan. PC agreed to produce a list of meal orders which would be specific to each table and available for them to consult.

7. Regional Seminar

MD said that she and GK would be attending the Regional seminar being held in Birmingham on 30th October. The seminar was concerned primarily with how groups could attract people from minorities- ethnicity, gender, disability, social background etc.

8. Other Business

(i) Hall Rota

MD said that the chairs had already been set out for the afternoon core meeting when the members of the hall rota arrived and MR had wondered if the hall rota was still needed. The committee considered that the rota should continue: it was not known whether there was anew policy at the hall and we needed the security of the rota at least for the time being.

(ii) Tea Rota

MD said that there was a problem with the tea rota for core meetings, because of the shortage of volunteers. In relation to December, it was agreed that seasonal offerings should be provided. MD was authorised to purchase 80 mince pies, 18 bottles of Bucks Fizz (remaining bottles to be used as raffle prizes) and 100 disposable flutes/wine glasses.

(iii) Painting Group

PM said that the painting group were finding the BRG to be cold for their meetings. It was suggested that they consider the committee room at the village hall. PM would liaise with Jane Collins and the Hall administrator and keep RD informed.

(iv) Committee Membership

PM said that, by the time of the AGM in 2013, she would have served the maximum four years on the committee. It was noted that a replacement needed to be sought and possibilities were considered.

(v) Next Meeting

The next meeting would be held on Monday 28th January 2013, following the core meeting.