Balsall Common U3A

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at 3.30pm on Monday 23rd July 2012 at the Village Hall, Station Road

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

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Anne Santos and Marie-Louise Marsden. Pam Moss apologised for a late arrival and Sandra Heard for having to leave early. It was noted that Marie-Louise Marsden had resigned from the committee.

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

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising

(i) U3A AGM

GK said that since the meeting, it had been agreed that MD and MM would attend the National AGM on 12th September. Further papers had been received, which he would distribute to those attending. He said that MM would not now be going and, consequently, there was a need for a replacement. This was pressing as he needed to submit the names of representatives to the Trust in the next few days. It was agreed that AB would attend as a non-voting representative in addition to MD. PM would go, if AB was unable to alter his arrangements (subsequently, AB was confirmed as attending). MD would vote on the motions submitted taking account of the discussion.

(ii) Jubilee Celebration

MD said that the Jubilee celebration on the Lant had been very successful and £100 had been donated to the Jubilee Fund from the profit made on the U3A stalls.

4. Minutes of the Meeting held on 28th May 2012

The minutes were agreed as a correct record.

5. Matters Arising

(i) Bank Signatories

AB said that the new signatories had all completed the necessary paperwork, but the bank had still not processed the changes. Apparently, the matter was being dealt with in Leicester. Consequently, the old signatories (PW and PD) had to continue signing cheques. This was not satisfactory and he was considering changing the account to a different bank.

5. Treasurer's Report

AB said that the two accounts remained very healthily in surplus; the amounts were approximately £7k and £2k. On current trends, the balances were likely to continue to grow. He felt that the committee should consider the situation as returns on the money were poor and the amounts retained. greater than required by financial prudence. The committee discussed possible options. It was agreed that they should investigate the organisation of a lunch, possibly at the West Midlands golf club, in Spring 2013; members could bring partners, with non-members being charged cost and members paying £5. MD would contact the Golf Club and GK would contact Peter Driffield about his recent booking. Possible dates would be Thursday 7th March and Friday 22nd March. MD would raise the suggestion at the August Core Brief and members would be asked to express their interest and pay the £5 to ascertain demand.

6. Correspondence

GK said that he had received that morning a mailing from the Trust. There were two new advice sheets- one on Waiting Lists, the other on Standing Orders for General Meetings. There were also a list of the winners of the 2012 Photography Competition, a 2013 calendar order form, a flyer advertising a study meeting at the Royal Geographical Society in London and a fact sheet from the legal advice service on package holidays. GK was asked to make members aware of the U3A calendars- a number could be purchased at the Trust AGM.

7. Publicity

PC said that the deadline for copy for the next edition of the Bugle was 10th August. He was looking for points of interest as a simple advert was usually relegated to the rear of the publication. The donation of £100 to the Parish Council could be mentioned.

PC said that he felt that the system of meeters and greeters at the core meeting should be reinstituted. It was intimidating for new and prospective members when they arrived. It was noted that the previous system had not worked well. It was agreed that PC put together an information pack of the core meeting programme, an application form and a summary of the U3A, copies of which could be kept with the signing on sheets and given to visitors. MR would be asked for his advice on the best way to ensure that the packs were given out. It was further agreed that no charge would be made for visitors or guests, up to a maximum of two visits.

PC said that he had been asked to provide Group co-ordinators with a list of the members of each group, to confirm their membership. It was pointed out that the information held was not up to date and, in any event, relied on co-ordinators for updating. It was agreed that PC would send to co-ordinators a list of the information held about their group membership, asking them to confirm the position.

8. Other Business

(i) MM Resignation

It was agreed that PM would take over MM's responsibility as Liaison Officer for the Group Co-ordinators. There was a need to find a new co-ordinator for the Garden Visit group- now likely to be for the 2013 season. On Questers, there was a group of individuals hoping to take up the role on a shared basis and the same could happen for the garden visits.

(ii) New Groups

MD said that a Film Study group was being established and some 20 members had already expressed an interest in joining. She asked PC to look at the list of interested members and let her have the appropriate contact information. MD and Steve Proctor were overseeing the group's establishment, which would be a winter-only group. They were likely to meet in in the Village Hall, with the second Wednesday as the favoured day: there were no other meetings. MD would make the initial bookings, at least. It was noted that the cost of the Hall and the committee room would rise when the extension was completed.

MD said that she was also looking into the possibility of a swimming group; one difficulty was finding an appropriate pool as well as the timeslots available for groups.

RD asked that the Money Matters group be deleted from the website as it was now defunct. It was agreed that RD would retain the hot water flask for the time being.

(iii) Date of Next Meeting

The next committee meeting would be held on Monday 22nd October, following the core meeting in the village hall.