

Balsall Common U3A

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held virtually during week commencing 28th October 2020

Present: Jim Melville (JM), Ian Hedley (IH), Richard Drake (RD), John Bolt (JB), Barbara Hammonds (BH), John Peat (JP), Sue Simpson (SS), Matthew Stephens (MS), Ernie Taylor (ET), Len Tomnie (LT), Vivienne Waterer (VW) & Linda White (LW)

- 1 Draft minutes of meeting held on 26th August - approved
Matters arising
Film group - JM emailed information on equipment & costs to Kim Hathrell
Third Age Trust AGM - Allan Walmsley duly elected as West Midlands trustee
Bridge tables - no further action required
- 2 Publicity Officer - Sue Simpson appointed
- 3 Reports - approved
- 4 Covid-19
Information received from Third Age Trust & Andrew Burrows (on behalf of Solihull MBC)
can be found on BCU3A website
Village Hall using QR codes for users
- 5 Core meetings and group meetings 2021 - the following proposals were approved

Proposal A: As there does not seem to be any likely improvements to the current situation during Covid-19 for at least the first three months of 2021 it was proposed that Balsall Common U3A continues to operate as it is

i.e. There will be no core meetings nor face to face group meetings before April 2021.

The only exceptions are Ramblers, Short Walks, Petanque and Walking Football which are able to continue in a much limited way. Full details, including Risk Assessments for each activity, can be found on the group's respective webpage.

Unfortunately as Balsall Common in Level 2 - "High Alert" it is not possible to hold any indoor meetings irrespective of numbers.

Naturally the situation on core and group meetings will be kept under review by the trustees who will be guided by advice from the government, Solihull MBC and the Third Age Trust.

Proposal B: That the AGM is held at the core meeting on 13th May 2021.

(note date amended from agenda)

JM to do notice for The Sentinel & website

BH & VW to cancel the necessary hall bookings and speakers

Proposal A has been superseded by the government's announcement on 31st October of a 4 week lockdown from 5th November. The amended action given below was approved, which JM will circulate to all & amend website:

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Saturday, the Trustees of Balsall Common u3a have no option but to cancel any group face to face activities, both indoors and outdoors, from Thursday 5th November.

Regrettably this means that Ramblers, Shorter Walks, Petanque & Walking Football plus any other groups which had planned to meet indoors or outdoors cannot now do so from Thursday 5th November until Wednesday 2nd December at the earliest.

6 Membership fees for 2021 - Proposal accepted

The Membership Fee for 2021 will be £11.25 (£9.00 from 1st July). This is set lower than the Membership Fee for 2020 to recognise that, although underlying costs require an increase, it is unlikely we will return to having Core Meetings before April 2021. However the fee for 2022 will need to be increased further if current cost trends continue.

In the light of the continuing Covid19 restrictions a reduced membership fee for 2021 will be £4.75. However payment must be by cheque (payable to Balsall Common U3A) between 1st January 2021 and before 14th March 2021. This can be “posted” to the treasurer, Richard Drake at “Merrivale”, Green Lane, Balsall Common, Coventry CV7 7EJ.

Only a renewal payment by cheque will be accepted for the reduced membership fee of £4.75. Regrettably any other renewal payments will incur the full fee of £11.25. This method allows the treasurer to properly “track and trace” individual payments.

If any member has not renewed by 31st March their membership will be terminated. Therefore any members rejoining after 1st April will be required to pay the full membership fee. Because of the unusual circumstances we are in, this proposal has been agreed by members of the Executive Committee and will not go for approval by the membership at a Special General meeting.

RD to place announcements in The Sentinels

7 Membership form 2021 - to be prepared & printed ready for January 2021 (JP to action)
JP to action, but to await decision on new logo

8 u3a Rebranding (see appendix 4) IH to act as contact
JM & Peter Calver attended webinar meeting 28 October. They will propose a logo and branding for Balsall Common u3a

9 U3a Regional Volunteers - request from Allan Walmsley emailed to all members

10 Forthcoming vacancy for the editor of “The Sentinel” - to date no volunteers

11 Dates & time of future committee meetings in 2021 (venue and format to be agreed)

Thursday 7 January (from 2pm)

Thursday 4 March to include planning for AGM & review of all policy documents (from 2pm)

Thursday 1 April to include agreement of final arrangements of AGM (after core meeting)

Thursday 13 May (new committee after AGM) note this is the second Thursday in May

12 Any other business

RD has volunteered to coordinate the Theatre group.

Approval agreed for the petanque group to use two pistes at the same time for two sessions allowing a maximum of 24 to attend. Lynn has rewritten risk assessment.

Direct Mail report submitted to TAT by JP

13 To carry forward

New group photographs to be taken at core meeting to replace those on website

Planning for the u3a movement post pandemic (see following link)

www.u3a.org.uk/covid-19-advice-on-u3a-activities/924-planning-for-the-u3a-movement-post-pandemic