Balsall Common U3A

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held 2nd February 2017 in the Downton Room of St Peter's Hall

Present: Jim Melville (JM), Peter Carver (PC), Len Tomnie (LT),Richard Drake (RD), Mary Dawson (MD), Martin Richards (MR), Jan Baylis (JB), Margaret Burleigh (MB), Alan Buckland (AB)

1. **Welcome and Apologies:** JM welcomed LT to the meeting and to the committee as a co-opted member until the next AGM. Apologies from Lynn Brinkworth (LB).

2. **Minutes secretary** for this meeting - MR

3. **Minutes of meeting held 1st December 2016**
   a. Minutes were approved
   b. Matters Arising:
      1. PAT testing – this still ongoing. Action RD
      2. Beacon System Workshop – MR, AB and John Peat will attend 11.00 on 16th February and report back. Concerns voiced include how to dovetail our existing systems with the new Beacon system.
      3. Mahjong Group and Village Hall – JB advised no new problems had been raised so it was to be left alone to see if anything further does develop.

4. **Correspondence received:**
   a. **National Office Mailings:** MB has received several documents which have all been passed onto the relevant people to deal with. Hence nothing further outstanding
   b. **Direct Mail & Events Notification:** All covered by PC in mailings to the U3A members

5. **Reports:**
   a. **Treasurer:** Circa £5000 in acct no.1, £2000 in acct no.2. Sue Timms (Mahjong group) has confirmed she has paid back the loan the group had from the committee.
      1. **Insurance: general** – all covered except possibly the U3A Swing Division (previously Big Band) instruments.
      2. **Product and Product Liability (PPL)** – all covered. JM asked if the optional property insurance was necessary. Answer, probably not.
      3. **Licenses:** PPL covered by the Trust
      Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) payable by 31 July
      Public Video Screening - Film Bank (PVS) payable by 30 April
      Phonographic Performance Ltd (PPL) payable 31 December.
   b. **Secretary:** - nothing further
   c. **Speaker Secretary:** in LB's absence nothing to report. JM asked when the next available date was as the Swing Division indicated they would like to perform around November time but JM thought this might take up a full meeting. If none available then perhaps the event could be an evening? LB to check.
   d. **Membership and Publicity Officer:**
      1. **Numbers:** 304 of whom 186 are ladies, 118 are men. There was general discussion about where members come from. PC will provide data on this.
      2. **Front cover of the Bugle:** The newly named Swing Division will feature on the front cover of the next issue of the Bugle.

e. **Groups Coordinator:**

1. **Next new members' coffee morning:** there are 34 new members to accommodate, so a date of 9th Mar was agreed to hold coffee morning at Haigs. Group coordinators will be asked to attend with their badges.
2. **Current Affairs group2:** 12 members have already expressed an interest to attend. The inaugural meeting is on 13 February.
3. **Gardening group:** 11 members have expressed an interest in this new group. JM to ask the Moffats if they would assist in organizing a meeting to discuss a possible format for the group.
4. **Ramblers short walk group:** MR has conducted a survey as to the requirements for such a group. So far no coordinator has stepped forward and only 17 replies received, mainly from existing ramblers. However, there does seem to be interest sufficient to take matters further. MR and RD have both offered to run a trial walk after Easter to test the water and to take matters further. A possible day would be the 4th Monday in the month as currently no other groups meet on that day.
5. **Possible Gym group:** at the Excel leisure centre there is an excellent gym and it has been suggested a new group could be formed to take advantage of this facility. No further details yet available.

6. **Refreshments at Core Meetings:** JB has stepped forward to run the "tea" rota. She now has names to cover all the meetings up to August 2017.

7. **Deaf Awareness workshop:** LT gave a summary of his visit with 3 others to the meeting in Birmingham. The main problem is loss of hearing and whilst many different solutions have been tried the only effective one is a Loop system in the appropriate room. No such Loop exists in the St Peter's Hall with little intention to fit one. A portable loop system could be but this has hazards such as trailing leads, etc. LT advised there is no legal requirement to fit one. JM proposed he, LT and RD meet with Father Peter to discuss our concerns and the possibility of fitting one and how it might be financed, pointing out St Peters Hall is the largest hall in BC and still does not have a loop system. In the meantime LT suggested we ask the speaker to repeat any question asked and for the microphone to be passed to anyone asking a question. He also suggested he might attend another meeting in Alcester to see if they could offer anything new.

JM wondered if the existing sound system could take an extra speaker and will ask Steve Procter (SP). MR asked what had happened to the purchase of a new speaker system. JM advised SP had drawn a blank on this.

8. **Succession Planning:** 4 to retire from the committee this AGM, only 2 replacements so far have come forward. MR suggested each of us target a specific person and "arm twist" to serve on the committee.

9. **Annual Subscription:** RD suggested we had too much money and needed to stop the funds increasing, so proposed the renewal subscription should be £8 and new members £16. After general discussion MR proposed the renewal sub be £8 and an additional £8 payable for new members as a one off payment to join the U3A. No reduction to be offered for the joining fee or renewal fee for a part year.

8. **Solihull Cluster Meeting (Weds 1st Feb):** to be discussed at the next meeting.

9. **AOB:** None

10. **Date of next Meeting: 11th May and 1st June.** JB asked to confirm the Downton Room has been booked for these dates.