Appendix 1

u3a Balsall Common

Executive Committee meeting held on Thursday 7 October 2021 in the Westlake Room at 4.00pm

Minutes of the meeting

Present: Matthew Stephens (MS), Richard Drake (RD), John Bolt (JB), Vivienne Waterer (VW), Barbara Hammonds (BH), John Peat (JP), Ernie Taylor (ET), Sue Simpson (SS) and Mike Fairbrother (MF)

1	All the members introduced themselves and MF was welcomed to his first meeting and was given some induction information.
2	Apologies: None
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2021 were read and accepted.
4	There were no matters arising that were not otherwise on the agenda
5	Quiz. 43 places had been reserved, of which 36 had been paid for. Lynn Brinkworth will organise the catering groceries but will not take part in preparing and serving the food. VW and BH to run the catering at the event. Judy Moffat to run the quiz A working group was formed to liaise and organise the event: RD, ET to operate the IT, VW and BH in the kitchen, Lynn and Judy. To meet in several weeks' time. Final date for refunds is 13 November.
6	Constitution: The proposed changes were accepted with one amendment. *The quorum for a trustees' meeting will be one half (not one third).* The proposal to be put to a special general meeting prior to the core meeting on 4 November.
7	Membership fees in 2022. *The membership fee in 2022 for all existing members will be £14.00 (payable in January & February 2022). The increase in the fee is to cover all our necessary costs. (NB the renewal fee for 2021 was set very low to reflect the lack of activity in 2020 and early 2021. The previous full years membership fee was £12.50)* *The membership fee in 2022 for all new members will be £15.00. The fee for members joining from 1 July 2022 will be £10.00.* *Any existing member not renewing by 28th February will pay the full membership fee of £15.00* *Any existing member not renewing by 31st March will have their membership terminated.* The proposal to be put to the special general meeting on 4 November.
8	Chair's vision. MS articulated his vision for the future of our u3a and noted the following: • An acknowledgement of the outstanding work of past Chairs and Committee Members • A wish to see the Committee grow and refresh over the coming years • A wish for our u3a to be outward facing and an active Community Group and receptive to new ideas

	Aims: 1. Raising our profile by: • Making greater use of social media e.g., Facebook – RD to liaise with Peter Calver • Potentially working with other local groups e.g., Lions, British Legion • Working with our Regional Trustee, Regional PR Adviser, neighbouring u3a's and the local media • Exploring how we can make use of u3a Week in 2022 • Where necessary working with u3a centrally 2. Growing membership/responding to needs of next generation of retirees through: • Being more "community facing/outward looking" by using the above-mentioned connections/coalitions • Encouraging our Interest Groups to be open to new ideas and changes • Being open to using new technology e.g., hybrid meetings if they are found to be of benefit • Recognising that the needs/interests of the next generation of retired people will be different – e.g., will they want a more "campaigning" style? We can begin the process by: • Canvassing the membership to identify their interests (many of which may well fall outside of our menu of Interest Groups) • Review opportunities to relaunch groups e.g., Film Study, Gardening • Refreshing Committee by the recruitment of younger members and introducing succession planning and mentoring starting from 3 months pre-AGM's • Ensuring that our u3a is always inclusive and welcoming • Organising more u3a member/guest fundraising events An open discussion followed and moving forward: • 3 or 4 co-ordinators will be encouraged to make short presentations at each core meeting. ET/colleagues to arrange. • Co-ordinators meeting to be arranged, probably on last Monday in January 2022. ET/BH to arrange.
	Reports: Chair: Met with: • Regional Trustee, Allan Walmsley, and Chairs in the Birmingham area • West Midlands PR Adviser (Jeff Berliner) with SS • Regional Focus Group re u3a Strategy • Solihull Cluster Group – identified Olton u3a to meet with informally Treasurer: Current bank balances: No.1 account £1,863.65. No 2 account £1,919.06 (including £489.93 Groups' reserve). The Co-operative Bank has informed RD that our account was not eligible for the incentive payment. RD has now raised a complaint with The Financial Ombudsman. Secretary: Nothing to report Membership secretary: Membership numbers: Full 319, Honorary 1, Visiting 10. Total 330.

	Speakers' secretary: Starting on next year's programme Group' Liaison officer: • One cribbage group is now meeting at Haigs. They are still looking for another venue for the second group. • Second Current Affairs group is looking for a new venue. In the interim they are using The Westlake Room. • The painting group has a new venue. Publicity officer: met Jeff Berliner on 5 October who has many tips for getting publicity through the local media. Leaflets now in library. Article for Bugle – JB to send SS photos of Jim Melville.
10	Correspondence: read and noted
11	Other business: None
12	Date of next meeting: 2 December 2021

Signed.. Date 2-12-2021