

Draft minutes

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

1. Welcome & apologies from John Peat (JP)

2. Draft minutes of committee meeting held by Zoom on 3 June 2021

These were agreed and approved (copies to webmaster & minutes file).

Matters arising:

JM farewell event 29 July – JM reported that to date from 21 invited 14 had accepted and one had declined.

Draft minutes of committee meeting held by Zoom on 17 June 2021

These were agreed and approved (copies to webmaster & minutes file).

Matters arising:

Risk Assessments for halls – these had been drafted for St Peter's Hall (BH), Methodist Church (LW), Village Hall (JM) and would be kept in abeyance until Step 4 details are announced by the Government.

BH reported that Blessed Robert Grissold required its risk assessment to be completed. JM will contact Nick Carter to obtain the appropriate information concerning the u3a Swing division to complete the form.

Meanwhile it was agreed to pause until we knew what was happening to Step 4.

Anthony Carlile from Gallaghers, our insurers have confirmed that:

"Providing such a specific confirmation of cover is not something Aviva will do but what I can confirm is that there is no Covid 19 exclusion within any of the U3A policies. As such if the U3A in question is legally liable for any injury (or sickness) the Aviva Public Liability cover will indemnify them. The details of the cover are as per the annual "To Whom It May Concern" letter".

3. Coronavirus situation

The current situation has not yet changed with the anticipation of Step 4 being introduced on 19 July, therefore the information on the website is still appropriate and will be reviewed at an additional meeting to be held on Wednesday 14 July at 09:00hrs. VW will facilitate this Zoom meeting as RD & ET not available. This is a day prior to the formal notification of the AGM.

The information from National Office "Advice on participation in u3a activities and Covid-19 tests was noted & will be considered after the government's announcement on Step 4.

4. Reports

Treasurer

There is little to report since the last meeting. The current balances are Main a/c £4369.97 & Groups £1905.46. RD is still waiting for annual charges from National Office and has emailed for details. The Groups a/c has been transferred from NatWest & the transfer bonus of £1250 is due by the end of July. RD will prepare a forecast for 2021/22 in September for the committee to consider and agree on the proposal for next year's membership fees.

Three members have joined since this January giving a total membership of 313.

Information received from Allan Walmsley:

The recently appointed PR adviser for the West Midlands has stepped down

A Philosophy week is planned online for 6-10 September (JM has informed Mike Watkinson)

A focus group is being arranged to establish what support can be offered from National Office.

5. Annual General Meeting arrangements 5 August 2021

Eight nominations received from existing trustees: JB, RD, BH, JP, SS, MS, ET & VW. BH to send forms to JM. No one else has come forward although there is an advert for new committee members in The Sentinel.

A list of all members required for registration, but members should be signed in by a few committee members (because of Covid). JM to ask JP to prepare current lists.

No motions for discussion have been received.

Formal letter (agreed at meeting 3 June) notifying AGM by email or Pony Express to be sent out after meeting on 14 July by JM to include:

Agenda with list of nominations and motions received

Draft minutes from previous AGM held 24 August 2020

Minutes from committee meeting to determine 2021 membership fee

Chairman's review

Groups Coordinator's review report

Treasurer's report & Financial report

Accounts scrutineer's report - Alan Buckland

It was agreed to purchase a bottle of champagne each for LW & LT in recognition of their 4 years service on the committee. JM will do the presentations at the end of the core meeting on 5 August.

6 Third Age Trust AGM Officer votes (JM has registered for our 2 proxy votes).

7 Storage & safe keeping of projector.

JM reported that the trial use of the projector & equipment required for the Film group was successful. VW agreed to be the keeper of the projector which would be collected & returned on the same day by the Film Study (2nd Wed) & Photography (4th Thur) groups.

8. Hybrid meetings - report from Peter Calver 4 June

It was considered impractical for core meetings at present, although if the effects of Covid-19 continue venues may be forced into supplying the appropriate facilities. However, groups may wish to think about hybrid meetings and the cost of additional equipment would be considered by the committee.

9. Balsall Common Facebook page (see email from Peter Calver 23 June)

It was decided that we should utilise the Balsall Common Facebook page instead of setting one up ourselves which would require personnel & close monitoring. RD will discuss with PC.

10. Dorridge Day promoting u3as

It was decided not to participate in this venture firstly because our membership renewal was favourable and a recruitment drive was felt unnecessary. Secondly Balsall Common is somewhat removed (in distance) from Dorridge which has an extremely successful u3a. JM to inform Peter Derrington, Solihull u3a Cluster secretary.

11. Date & time of next meetings

Wednesday 14 July at 09:00hrs by Zoom (VW to facilitate)

Thursday 5 August 2020 at 16:00hrs (after AGM) in Westlake Room. Outline agenda attached to agenda for meeting held on 1 July.

12. Role Descriptions

The incoming committee might be interested in viewing the documents for Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Secretary & Groups Liaison. They can be found as document downloads on the main u3a website under Support for u3as.

13. Any other business

VW reported she had attended an interesting meeting on “Slow Ways” and will prepare a short report for the next “Sentinel”.