

**Minutes of the 175th Committee Meeting of the Buckingham and District U3A  
held on  
Monday 19 May 2014 in the Buckingham Town Council Chambers**

**Present:** Bryan Weston Thomas (President, Chairing the meeting) Joan Hatherley (Treasurer), Roland Simpkins (Webmaster), Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Dusty Roades (Speaker Seeker), Val Bradley (Business Secretary/Group Liaison Officer), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter Editor) Di Procter (Minutes) David Angrave (Technical Resources)

1 **Welcome:** Bryan welcomed everyone.

2 **Apologies :** Clive Cowdy

3 **Minutes of the Last Meeting April 14th**

The minutes were approved and signed by Bryan after a small amendment.  
Proposed Carolina Kenealy, seconded Dusty Roades.

4 **Matters Arising:**

GCs lunch 5<sup>th</sup> June: 13 positive replies so far and 8 No's. Bryan to send out a reminder to all GC's for an answer, to be sent to Val.. If there are not 30 positive responses by Friday it will be cancelled.

5 **Minutes of the Extra meeting held on April 28<sup>th</sup>:**

These were also agreed and signed after a minor amendment.

Val Bradley wanted to express an opinion.

"I think that we (the committee) have done a disservice to the members of our U3A, in limiting the number of free holidays an organiser can take in a year.

Not many people could afford 5 holidays a year, even with a 50% discount, so the number of holidays offered will be reduced.

Providing holidays is not our main function, but it is very popular, giving people on their own the chance to have a discounted and well organised holiday with people they know, in return for no work by them.

I think our action will result in fewer holiday opportunities for our members and I am sorry to have been part of the action."

6. **Matters Arising from the Extra Meeting.**

Di proposed, seconded by Lesley that Clive should be elected Chairman. Unanimously agreed.

There are 3 people who are willing to be co-opted onto the Committee.

Martin Paul (who is Clive's shadow)

Christine Dodds as Speaker Secretary

Don Hall Member without Portfolio.

These names were proposed by Dusty seconded by Val. Again unanimously agreed.

It was agreed that the Committee photoboard will not be updated now, and so it will not be displayed until after the AGM.

It was also agreed that Beryl will not be able to display/advertise her holidays at monthly meetings if she is running them separately. Everyone agreed

**Action Clive to explain to Beryl.**

Gina has said that she will do the next two coffee mornings.

## 7 Treasurer's Report

Joan told us that room hire is at a net loss of about £1400 at the moment but we pay for some venues in advance.

There is £30 surplus after the Sidmouth and Thursford holidays.

7 outings have taken place so far and the surplus for these is £386

There had been a problem recently on the trip to the Cable Car and Tower Bridge when Beryl had needed cash to pay entrance money now that she has returned the Debit Card.

## 8 Summer Social

Sheila has two bottles of Pimms. She will know quantities bought previously.

We also need to order glasses.

**Action Di to contact Sheila.**

Carolina is thinking about the food. (Budget £295) After discussion it was agreed that sandwiches are probably safest. We will try food on the tables at the start of the afternoon.

**Val to check time of hall availability.**

Carolina has bought three polythene boxes to help her transport food from home to the hall. £11.97 to be claimed.

Entertainment. GC's to be asked if any group could provide an item for up to 15 minutes. Suggestions:- language singing, singing for fun, poems? David will provide background music.

Dusty will run a raffle for MIND.

**Carolina to bring some newsletters for the next monthly meeting.**

## 9 Group News

There had been no white envelope. The Keep Fit class had closed. It was queried whether the Chantry Chapel had been cancelled.

**Action Joan to contact Vera.**

Val will order 60 diaries.

It was wondered if there was any progress re the Computer Group/s. It was suggested that maybe the Council Chambers could be used for the i-pad group. Barbara and Val to speak re progress. (Di spoke to Barbara and she will talk to Val at the next monthly Meeting.)

'Singing for Fun' need another keyboard.

Do we need an extra newsletter going out in June/July? **For next month's agenda.**

Job Descriptions to be available at the next meeting. Carolina to also source from last newsletter. Carolina has lots of ideas for the newsletter and wants to change it to a booklet with a sheet inserted of most current information. This will be slightly more expensive. It will be easy to send any relevant changes to Roland who can then update the website.

Val asked about the printer that she has, which the U3A bought for her for when she stands down as Business Secretary in October. It was agreed by everyone that she should keep it.

## 10 Membership

Lesley reported membership numbers: current 738. Bryan asked if it was necessary to send e-newsletters or would the website be enough. Roland felt strongly that they still need to be e-mailed or people might not read them. In future they will only be sent out a maximum of a week in advance of those that are posted.

She had deleted all members pre 2010 so lapsed members is now down to 96.

There was talk about the new membership card. It was agreed to order 800 and if they run out during the year old blank ones would be used. **Carolina to finalise.**

## 11 Website

Bryan is pleased by the website and says it must be publicised.

People had commented on the quality of Gina's pieces for the paper.

The minutes from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> to go on the website.

Photoboards of GC's. It was agreed that photos will be taken from the website and put in a folder so that they will be available at the monthly meetings on the table as you enter for reference. **Action Roland.**

## 12 Any Other Business

Barbara Willis and Christine Dodds will collect the attendance money at the next monthly meeting.

Lesley will not be at the Wednesday meeting so prospective new members will have to send her their forms. Neither will Joan.

No one has contacted David re the electrical items. Di can take them to the Sobell House Warehouse in Bicester.

Dusty told us that some of his seedlings had failed so he hoped other people had some.

Carolina will have to look after her nephew on Wednesday afternoons so will need to relinquish the tea rota. Bryan to announce this on Wednesday to try to get someone not on the Committee to take on this role.

Don Hall to be asked to do the newspaper report from the next meeting.

**Action Bryan**

Roland asked to have all the Committee changes so he can update the website.

**12 Next Committee Meeting:** Monday 22nd June 10 a.m. in the Council Chambers.