

**Minutes of the 179th Committee Meeting of the Buckingham and District U3A
held on
Monday October 20th 2014 at the Council Chambers**

Present: Clive Cowdy (Chairman), Joan Hatherley (Treasurer), Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Val Bradley (Business Secretary/Group Liaison Officer), Don Horne (Publicity), Christine Dodds (Speaker Seeker), Carolina Kenealy (newsletter), Roland Simpkins (Website), Martin Paul (Vice Chairman), Jennie Smith (Shadow Minutes)

1 Welcome and Apologies: Clive welcomed everyone. Apologies from Di Proctor (Minutes Secretary).

2 Minutes of the Last Meeting 22nd Sept 2014

Chairman reported error under AOB which had been corrected – Brian Weston-Thomas was organising trip to Amsterdam in 2016, not 2015. The minutes were approved – to be signed c/o Di Procter's file.

3 Matters Arising:

- Handbells Bellfest 2015: Treasurer confirmed up to £100 had been allocated towards cost of venue hire, final amount still unknown.
- Well Street – following refurbishment, enquiries made about hire, but details still unknown – to be followed up early January 2015. The building would be known as the Buckingham Business Centre.
- AGM planning – Pam Tonge has withdrawn her nomination for President. Brian Weston-Thomas to be proposed.

4 Chairman's Report: covered under items below.

5 Treasurer's Report: Joan Hatherley

- ✧ Croquet Group Contact made with the cricket club contact Bob Hutt. The group had requested £250 to subsidise venue hire costs, and £200 was offered. As croquet finishes 31st October, to re-start 1st April 2015, it was agreed to finalise details and costs later.
- ✧ Gawcott Chapel venue Hire costs had been increased from £2 to £7 per hour which would have a serious impact on subsidy. In discussion with Handbells and Recorders GCs it was agreed that members would be willing to increase payments – possibly ask chapel to consider £6 although it was appreciated the chapel did need funds for continued maintenance e.g. renewal of windows.

It was agreed that a policy on subsidies should be considered e.g. what levels, percentages, and be an item for discussion at GCs meeting February 2015.

- ✧ Renewal of Costco card (due Nov 2014 £35) Currently Pat Costello, Val Bradley and Carolina Kenealy held U3A cards. It was agreed to decide who should hold the cards after the AGM – at next committee meeting.
- ✧ Accounts Treasurer reported how she would present the accounts at AGM, and anticipated questions from the floor. As hire payments had been increased from 30p to 50p the resulting subsidy this year was £1,900 as opposed to £3,000 last year. Discussion followed about a

'free' subscription year, and the TAT guidance to keep 6 months operation costs – for a full discussion at a future meeting.

6 **AGM Planning: Clive Cowdy**

- ⤴ Introductions Chairman suggested that those on platform introduce themselves.
- ⤴ Minutes 30 copies of the 2013 minutes would be distributed on chairs rather than read out.
- ⤴ Committee membership 11 nominations, but only 10 required. Disappointment that no one come forward for Secretary but Paddy Collins on stand-by.
- ⤴ Attendance Clip boards available for signatures.
- ⤴ Charity choice No ideas to be taken from the floor as nominations had been requested to advise Lesley Suggate by end Sept.
- ⤴ Members Forum Chairman would not refer to chairman's resignation earlier this year.
- ⤴ Quorum It was agreed that there would be adequate attendance.
- ⤴ Caretaker Val had informed of the plan and number of tables required.

7 **Group News: Val Bradley**

- ⤴ Qi Gong New group started Gawcott chapel alternate weeks.
- ⤴ Learning to Draw New group meeting monthly in Buckingham Centre November and December, then starting 7th Jan 2015 alternate weeks.
- ⤴ Touch Typing Not much interest shown – advertise again at AGM.

Clive asked how many groups there were and the count was 56. Carolina will include the group list with the Newsletter to Lesley and the quick reference forwarded to Roland for the website.

8 **Membership: Lesley Suggate**

- ⤴ Numbers 127 paid + 403 standing orders received, and the first on line application had been received.
- ⤴ Charity The two charities being proposed were – Hospital Car Service and Young Carers. Steeple Claydon Friends Day Care had been suggested but as they had only been operational since July 2014 there were no reliable financial figures yet. They may be a possible option next year. There would be a vote at the AGM and if close then perhaps 50/50?

9 **Website: Roland Simpkins**

- ⤴ New Page This was announcing local events and currently -
Secret Intelligence Discussions c/o Buckingham University
Exhibition of Photography at MK – free (22nd – 26 Oct)
Jazz Appreciation group – event February 2015
A note about this would be included in the next Newsletter and it was important to delete the information when appropriate.
- ⤴ New developer An extra person had been employed beginning November. It was hoped to make the website 'broader' and that its management would be easier, with possible access by GCs to update their Group's details.

Committee members commented on the ease of use of the website.

10 Newsletter: Caroline Kenealy

- ⤴ Apology for not including quick reference page in recent newsletter.
- ⤴ No. Issues Agreed to cancel the July issue, leaving three issues per year.
- ⤴ Postage Roland Simpkins kindly offered his company's services and to invoice U3A. (Membership cards to be posted separately).
- ⤴ Next issue in time for Christmas Social 17th December.

11 Any Other Business

- ⤴ Christmas Social Carolina had already bought stollen and suggested ready-made sandwiches from Costco. Approx total spend £113 and catering for 180. Further discussion about quantities at next committee meeting. Jennie Smith to relay invitation to Handbells and Recorders group for 20/25 minutes entertainment.

It was noted that if no one came forward to take on the catering role from Carolina then no more 'socials' could be held. Chairman to inform members at AGM.

- ⤴ Don Horne Information about the last meeting had been entered under the 'Clubs' section in the Advertiser.
- ⤴ GCs' lists of group membership Lesley reported these were not required until January 2015. Chairman to inform GCs.
- ⤴ Next of Kin Lesley reported that Barbara Willis had asked members of the new computer group for next of kin. It was thought unnecessary as this was already decided to be put, voluntarily, on the back of the membership card. Barbara's diligence was noted!
- ⤴ Buckingham Walking Group Clive reported the problems of insurance – wanting too much information about the nature of the walk, risk assessment etc and hoped this would not become a problem for U3A.

Chairman thanked those members who were coming off the committee at the AGM for their commitment and hard work for Buckingham U3A.

12 Next Committee Meeting: Mon 24th November at 10:00