



**Minutes of the 182nd Committee Meeting of the Buckingham and District
U3A held on
Monday January 26th 2015 at the Council Chambers**

Present:

Clive Cowdy (Chairman)
Joan Hatherley (Treasurer)
Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter)
Roland Simpkins (Website)
Paddy Collins (Secretary)
John White (Technical Support)
Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary)
Martin Paul (Speaker Secretary & Vice Chairman)
Sheila Everson (New Members)
Don Horne (Publicity)

1 Welcome

2 Apologies:

Lilia Bogle (Group Liaison Officer).

3 Minutes of the Last Meeting 15th December 2014

The minutes were approved (after correction for date of July 2015 meeting).

4 Matters Arising:

Joan has identified the return mentioned in item 12 of the minutes and has provided the treasurer with figures for it.

5 Arrangements for next Open Meeting 28th January

Meeting starts at 2:30pm
Entrance still 50p
Clive to chair the meeting.

**6 Arrangements and Guidelines for Group Co-ordinators' Meeting
2 pm 11th Feb at Community Centre**

Preparation:-



Need to cover Group Co-ordinators' Guidelines document and ensure that it is up-to-date.

Look at minutes of 2014 meeting and make them available to GCs.

Provide teas/coffees/biscuits.

It was agreed that the Chairman, Secretary and Membership Secretary and Group Liaison Officer (if available) would meet at a later date to finalise things.

Postscript – this meeting took place on 3rd February at Clive's house with Lesley, Paddy & Clive present – Lilia gave her apologies. Clive to produce the agenda for the GC meeting.

7 Christmas/Festive/Annual Lunch

Bryan Weston-Thomas arrived by invitation for this item. This event has historically always been organised by the committee and has been an important part of the social calendar offering.

This year it was at the mill at the university with 65 people attending with bookings mainly by groups rather than individuals.

However the venue did attract some negative feedback this year and Bryan agreed that we need to find a new venue.

Lesley proposed and it was agreed by vote that the committee will organise it for next year and if the venue requires an upfront deposit then the U3A would provide that.

The Villiers was suggested as a venue and Lesley agreed to investigate.

Bryan Weston-Thomas then left the meeting.

Postscript – The Villiers has been provisionally booked for 70 guests for Sunday 10th January 2016 from 12:15 pm for 1:00 pm start

8 Chairman's Report

Paddy & Clive went to the recent BEDS+ U3A regional meeting in Linslade.

Various common issues discussed. One U3A has bar-coded entry cards and uses them to randomly invite 3 or 4 members to a committee meeting to see how things work.

Other U3As have issues with paid outside tutors – not in the ethos of U3A.

Pam Jones of U3A HQ will be addressing our March Open Meeting.

It is proposed that there be a new Brackley U3A branch. Clive & Lesley are going to the startup meeting on 18th Feb.

Thanks to Dusty Roades for getting us free publicity through the local newspaper for our support for the charity 'Young Carers'



9 Treasurer's Report

Buckingham Cricket Club have confirmed that the Croquet group can play the dates that they want (ground fee is £200)

Walking group has been given £10 to hire a venue for a meeting.

The handbell group use Gawcott Methodist Church and have asked for a rent reduction which is currently being considered.

Past practice is that where accommodation is charged then the normal entrance fee per member is 50p but in some circumstances then the fee can be more.

Surplus Funds Issue:-

Prior to the meeting Joan had written a memo to the committee expressing her concern about the decisions taken at the December meeting and asked that the committee reconsider those decisions. Joan was invited to put her case forward and she restated some of the points in her memo including advice she had received from TAT, our obligations to the Charity Commission and emphasised the need to justify any reserves policy. She also said that the reduction of £3 in the subscription would have little impact on the level of reserves held.

It was agreed unanimously that we need to reduce our reserves but there was disagreement as to how to achieve it.

Of the £13 annual membership fee £3.50 goes to U3A HQ.

Joan proposed that a subscription holiday be given to all members in 2015. No one was willing to support this proposal.

Paddy proposed reducing the subscription to £10 per annum until further notice. This was seconded by Lesley and voted upon.

Votes in Favour 7

Votes Against Nil

Abstentions 3

This motion was therefore carried.

Clive will draft a statement for Roland to put on the website.

10 Membership Secretary's Report

40 new members since 31/12/14. We now have 697 paid up members and 84 lapsed members. Looking healthy.

Membership application form can go on our website.

11 Webmaster's Report

Barbara Willis has agreed to be Roland's shadow.

A comments box will be added to the website for approved comments (they will not be published until Roland clears them. This will prevent inappropriate comments being published).



Roland will go through the website functionality at the Group Co-ordinators meeting on 11th Feb.

12 Newsletter Editor's Report

December newsletter went out OK.

Deadline for copy for April issue is 31/03/15

13 Secretary's Report

Job Description is still required for the Newsletter Editor role.

Postscript – this has now been done.

14 AOB

Sheila:

She needs to finalise arrangements for the next New Members meeting at Buckingham Golf Club on Friday 27th Feb at 10:15a.m.

Members will need to be informed that because of golf club rules they must not wear jeans.

John:

He needs a spare bulb for the projector but they are expensive. He also suggested getting the old projector repaired as a standby.

The committee gave John authority to resolve the problem in whatever way he considers best.

Lesley:

Need to put a discussion on socials on the next agenda.

The list of all members goes to TAT for magazine distributions.

Joan:

Joan stated that she had no problem with votes going against her but she thought that on this important policy (i.e. reserves and how to get them down) she could not continue as treasurer when she was so out of step with the rest of the committee. She will be tendering her resignation in due course.

Postscript:

Joan requested that the following statement be attached to the minutes.

“The reason for my resignation is this: on the basis that the decision taken at today's Committee Meeting about reserves is neither justifiable, nor consistent with TAT guidelines or the expectations of the



Charity Commissioners it is no longer possible for me to hold any position on the Committee.”

The remainder of the committee accept that our reserves are too high and should be reduced but are unwilling to reduce them as rapidly as Joan proposed.

15 Date of Next Committee Meeting

Monday 23rd February 2015 at 10:00 a.m. in Buckingham Town Council's Chambers

DRAFT