

## Minutes of the 183<sup>rd</sup> Committee Meeting of the Buckingham and District U3A held on Monday February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 at the Council Chambers

**Present:** Martin Paul (Vice Chairman), Lesley Suggate (Membership Secretary), Don Horne (Publicity), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter), Roland Simpkins (Website), Sheila Everson (New Members), John White (Technical Support), Valerie Shaw (co-opted Secretary), Jennie Smith (Minutes)

### 1 **Welcome**

Martin welcome everyone

### 2 **Apologies** Clive Cowdy (Chairman), Paddy Collins (Secretary)

### 3 **Minutes of the Last Meeting**

The minutes were approved for signature.

### 4 **Matters Arising**

GCs meeting: Clive had chaired this meeting well with good support from Paddy Collins with particular regard to excess funds. A draft report had been sent to the committee explaining Charity law. Clive did not wish to publish it until Paddy had agreed the wording, and the committee agreed that the issued is cleared, and 'a line drawn under'.

Scrabble Group: Lesley raised an issue from the Scrabble group about the regulations regarding the use of the mezzanine in the library - informing staff about disabled members in the case of an emergency evacuation. It was agreed that advice be sought from the Fire Brigade, AVDC and an item in next GCs letter.

### 5 **Committee Changes**

Treasurer: Don Horne proposed and Carolina Kenealy seconded the election of Paddy Collins as Treasurer.

Secretary: Lesley Suggate proposed and John White seconded the co-option of Valerie Shaw as Secretary – until this year's AGM.

Signatories: It was agreed that Clive Cowdy and Lesley Suggate remain as signatories, all others removed, and Paddy Collins' and Don Horne's signatories added.

### 6 **Check list for Wed 25<sup>th</sup> Members Meeting**

Open up with caretaker 1.45	Lesley
Picture display and notice board	Roland
Greet/entry money	Martin/Sheila
Meet speaker	Martin
Sign up new members	Lesley
Equipment/speaker requirements	John
Catering/Digital Photography	Carolina
Close hall	Lesley
Chair (?Clive absence)	Martin

Notices – 1 Shadows required:  
Vice-Chair  
New Members  
Newsletter

2 Observers invited to committee

Martin reported he had been approached by John Bercow's agent as John was interested in speaking to U3A, but Wednesdays were not suitable due to PMQ. There was discussion about the possibility of coming in April (just prior to General Election?) or at the Summer Social (during Parliamentary Recess?), and a fee. It was agreed that the talk should be non-political and allow for questions. Martin to pursue.

## 7 **Chairman's Report and Treasury matters**

Brackley U3A Lesley reported that she and Clive had attended a meeting in Brackley with Towcester and Banbury U3As to help launch a new branch. It had been suggested that each donate £300 to help with initial costs – agreed by committee. It was noted that on some other U3A new membership forms 'previous experience' was requested, and it was agreed that this was a good idea but not mandatory to complete.

January 2015 Accounts The CAF Bank and Lloyds accounts were received prior to the meeting.

## 8 **Membership Secretary's Report**

Lesley reported on the current figures – 734 current members. Group membership details had been received from all but two groups. It was reported that one GC had not paid the subscription and it was agreed that, initially, Lesley follow up by phone.

## 9 **Webmaster's Report**

Roland reported on good feedback from the GCs meeting although a possible issue with a group with two GCs and only one getting email.

## 10 **Newsletter Editor's Report**

Next deadline 31<sup>st</sup> March – chase GCs for items.

Family History Group could advertise a group visit to Aylesbury.

Croquet – table requested for Wed 25<sup>th</sup> meeting to advertise start date as newsletter too late. No permission required – NB for future requests.

## 11 **Any other Business**

Publicity Don had got notice of last meeting into the Advertiser – same information as on website.

Summer/WinterSocials Discussion led by Lesley and Carolina about costs/times/food waste. Suggestion that Summer Social be a cream tea (same time/different food) and December Social be lunch time (earlier time/same food). Carolina wished that decision made to pass on to successor. It was agreed that as funds available perhaps invite caterers (Mary Price?) in the interim, should no one come forward to take over from Carolina.

New Year Lunch NB change of name from 'Festive' so no crackers have to be produced! Lesley had investigated 2016 venue and agreed to organise, stay on committee to help, and requested that 'New Year Lunch' and 'Catering' be permanent items on committee agendas. Details for 2016 -

10<sup>th</sup> January

Villiers Hotel, Buckingham - £19 for two courses including tip.

Beef – Chicken – Fish - Veggie dish

Desserts/Cheese

Coffee

Max 70 members (?partners – review later)

Deposit cheque £70 when booking confirmed

Friends of University forms Don had arranged for these to be available from Julian Lovelock.

Committee Roland raised the point that members were often mis-informed on some issues as they hear information 'after the event'. He suggested that the committee look ahead to any likely contentious issues (ONLY), inform members via GCs requesting feedback to committee for discussion. Any subsequent committee decision on such an issue would be 'binding.' Don felt we must be careful not to make issues into too much of a battle. With this in mind we felt GCs should be circulated the agenda for forthcoming committee meetings so members could express their views in any areas

ahead of the next committee meeting, rather than focusing on just one or two issues. It was agreed to invite one member each month to the committee meetings to attempt to de-mystify our meetings. This would work by asking each group in turn to provide someone. The group responsible would be the group down for 'tea rota' each month.

Groups Carolina raised the point that groups were very diverse in their needs and it was a fundamental basic of the U3A ethos to facilitate the groups to ensure their success.

## **12 NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING**

Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 10 a.m. Council Chambers