

Buckingham & District U3A

Minutes

For the 215th Committee Meeting held on Monday 26 February 2018 at 10 am in the Council Chambers at the Buckingham Community Centre

Present: Martin Paul (Chairman), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Steve Heywood (Group Liaison Officer), Lorna Joy, Janti Mistry (Membership), Derek Morgan (Webmaster), Mike Weston (Vice Chairman), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter Editor), Linda Beasley (Speaker Secretary) and Cliff Dammers (Secretary)

Apologies: Roger Edwards

Absences: None

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee members.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 January 2018 were approved.

Matters Arising:

Paddy Collins reported on progress in converting the Association to a charitable incorporated organization. The trustees who will serve the CIO signed the necessary form.

The Committee discussed the question of the trustees' personal liability after conversion to a CIO. Paddy Collins explained that liability would only arise if a trustee is guilty of misbehavior.

The draft constitution will be sent to the Charity Commission. If the Charity Commission approves the draft, the Branch will proceed with new bank accounts, etc. If the Charity Commission has comments, the draft will be corrected.

The Committee discussed the use of personal credit cards for expenses incurred by group leaders. The issue is not clear. Paddy Collins will check the guidelines and may seek guidance from the U3A Trust. No change in current practice will be made until the Branch converts to a CIO.

Paddy Collins and Derek Morgan agreed to attend the upcoming U3A workshop.

There has not been any response to the Chairman's appeal for shadows for the Committee members. An appeal will be sent to all the group co-ordinators.

The Chairman had invited the Philosophy Group to send an observer to a Committee meeting but there has not been any response.

Tea rotas: Philosophy in February; Architecture in March Italian Improvers in April

It was decided that the group responsible for the teas at the open meeting should send two observers to that month's Committee meeting. Steve Heywood will inform the groups.

Backup for speakers. Linda Beasley will discuss the question with Aylesbury U3A and will ask members to be official backup speakers. The Committee discussed having an interesting DVD ready in case a speaker could not make the open meeting at the last minute.

Linda Beasley raised the question of vetting potential speakers. The speaker secretary used to get recommendations for speakers from Bedfordshire, Luton and other nearby U3A branches.

It will be necessary to have an organiser for the Branch's charity this year (League of Friends). Carolina Kenealy will speak to someone.

It will be necessary to have a member man the (bring and buy) sales table for the charity. Derek Morgan's wife is prepared to do it.

Chairman's Report

Next year's charity will be the Buckingham Youth Centre.

The League of Friends of the Hospital are looking for a treasurer and have asked that a notice be put on the Branch's website. The Branch receives many such requests. It was agreed that such requests are too numerous for the website and announcements at the open meeting and should be put in the newsletter. Requests from commercial businesses would not be honoured.

The new members coffee morning was a success. 35 new members attended but only two group co-ordinators. Several new members arrived late. It was agreed that in the future it would be emphasised that it was a meeting, starting at ten, "with coffee".

Carolina Kenealy reported that there is a great deal of interest in regular coffee mornings. They can be held in the Chantry Chapel and would cost £55 for six two hours sessions, payable in advance. It was agreed that the coffee mornings would be held, from 10 to 12 on Thursday mornings.

Treasurer's Report

Paddy Collins reported on the group co-ordinators' reports. He periodically reviews them. The year end accounts will have to be prepared for both the current organisation and for the CIO.

Membership Secretary's Report

There are 854 members and it is expected that there will be 860 by the end of the calendar year.

Group Liaison Officer

There is a great deal of interest in setting up new groups. Linda Kenealy pointed out that it is not necessary to obtain approval from the Group Liaison Officer to establish a new group.

The bridge and yoga groups have disbanded.

The Webmaster pointed out that sending to "Everybody" results in the e-mail going to all of the Committee members and all of the group co-ordinators.

The next open meeting will be held on 28 February 2018. The Chairman is unable to attend and Mike Weston will host the meeting.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 27 March 2018 at 10 am in the Council Chambers at the Buckingham Community Centre.

Charity No. 1071631