



University of the Third Age

BUCKINGHAM AND DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES FOR THE 219TH COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 25 JUNE 2018 AT 10.00AM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT BUCKINGHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE

Present: Martin Paul (Chairman), Linda Beazley (Speaker Secretary), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Steve Heywood (Group Liaison Officer), Lorna Joy (interim Membership Secretary), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter Editor), Robert Winks (acting as shadow for Secretary)

Apologies

Roger Edwards
Cliff Dammers
Janti Mistry

The Chairman welcomed RW and introduced the committee members.
The minutes for the May meeting were approved.

Matters arising

Update on CIO

PC reported further on the conversion of the association to a CIO. It was confirmed that Standing Orders for membership subscriptions would need changing. LJ would officially take over as membership secretary after the AGM and have the paying in book from JM. *It was hoped to persuade members not to pay by cash in future as this involves excessive administration.*

PC proposed to issue debit cards to Beryl Carr, Pam Tonge and Di Proctor. He read the terms and conditions for business debit cards and details of the agreement with Lloyds Bank.

Summer Social and 20th anniversary.

MP reported on plans for the entertainment. Arthur Newman and the singing for fun group would sing three songs. Paul Radcliff, Eileen Llopis and Beryl Carr would share reminiscences of early days of the foundation of the U3A branch. Each item would last approximately 15 minutes. Tea, sandwiches, cake and sparkling wine would be served. Karen Burton would handle the catering as usual. It was difficult to gauge precise numbers but MP would ask for a show of hands at the monthly meeting 27th June and email group co-ordinators to gain some idea of members likely to attend. Eileen Llopis had agreed to cut the cake. There was some discussion of encouraging a group singsong led by the singing group and MP would contact Mike Weston to see if he might sing as well. The fee remains at £1. Discussion focussed on seating arrangements at the social and the tendency for cliques to form. MP suggested "musical chairs" to encourage people to move tables and mingle. SH suggested giving people table numbers as they came in. She undertook to ask Barbara Willis to take photos and RE was going to contact the Bucks Advertiser. Committee members will be allocated to individual tables of 8 to 10.

Chairman's report

MP reported that Ann Abraham had agreed to be a shadow for DM as webmaster. Marion Meakin's offer to be a shadow for CK was clarified. He led discussion on LJ's new role and it

was formally agreed to email membership renewals which would serve as a card. This would save on envelopes and postage using the prototype set up by JM. LJ stated that whereas members were reminded to bring proof of payment to the October monthly meeting group co-ordinators should now be encouraged to check payment at the first group meeting. The chairman would also follow up the suggestion for a group co-ordinators lunch.

He thanked Mike Weston for his services as vice chairman and the committee were pleased to formally confirm Dusty Roades as new vice-chair.

MP confirmed that the tree planting ceremony for the 20th anniversary discussed at the last meeting would go ahead on **Tuesday** 24 July at 11am with Sir Anthony Seldon at the walkway in the University grounds in Chandos Park by the river. The committee should meet outside the refectory at about 10.30am.

Treasurer's report

PC had developed his report on the new arrangements for the branch change of status to a CIO in matters arising.

Group Liaison Officer's report

SH had expanded on the arrangements for the summer social/20th anniversary celebration in matters arising as he had to leave the meeting by 10.50am. He had also found a co-ordinator for the new Antiques and Collectables group and had investigated Maids Moreton Village hall as a possible venue at a cost of £6 per hour. CK suggested the Cotebarn at the Woolpack as an alternative and its big area was not necessarily a disadvantage as in the case of Art. SH also confirmed that the French Lunch group led by Valerie Shaw would organise the tea at the forthcoming open meeting on 27th June.

Speaker secretary's report

LB reported that she was looking for speakers for next year and that arrangements were in place up to March. It was confirmed that Warren Whyte would be speaking on North Korea at the next meeting 27th June.

Webmaster's report

DM had earlier in the meeting suggested that members should bring their own cups to monthly meetings to reduce the use of plastic cups in line with several other organisations. The committee agreed that MP would announce at the next monthly meeting that the use of plastic cups would cease once the existing stock had been run down. Teas and coffees would be served in crockery available at the community centre. Groups serving would need guidance on the use of the dishwasher.

Various members of the committee especially LJ and CK brought up problems they were having with Roundcube (the U3A mail system) and so a tutorial was requested from DM on its application. He offered to visit them at home in some cases in order to solve their problems. It was noted that some group co-ordinators show resistance to the use of this system to communicate with group members.

Newsletter Editor's report

CK requested clear information on the new membership scheme for the newsletter and emphasised she needed copy from co-ordinators by 31st August deadline

Any other business

Regarding the request to give a three minute fundraising talk on behalf of Bus Shelter MK the chairman elaborated on the fact that this did not fall within the objectives of the branch and in fact the U3A is not supposed to collect for other charities; thus the request is refused. No volunteers have as yet come forward for the Third Age conference on 28-30 August. The committee discussed problems with the sound system. LB commented that it had been "appalling" at the last meeting. It was reported that the hearing loop still needed attention. Speakers should be encouraged to carry out a sound test in advance and check the functioning of the microphone. The potential benefits of a lapel microphone or cheek microphone were discussed.

The meeting closed at 11.20am

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday 23 July 2018 in the Council Chambers at Buckingham Community Centre at 11 am.

Charity No. 1177534 (CIO)