

Buckingham & District U3A Minutes

For the 221st Committee Meeting held on Monday 24 September 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), Janti Mistry (Membership Secretary), Carolina Kenealy (Newsletter Editor), Linda Beazley (Speaker Secretary), Lorna Joy (interim Membership Secretary) and Cliff Dammers (Secretary)

Apologies: Derek Morgan

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the Committee members.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. The minutes had been e-mailed in a zip file form and some Committee members had been unable to open the file.

Matters Arising

Members reported on progress in recruiting their shadows. More work is necessary.

Renewal notices have been sent by e-mail to existing and new members.

Paddy Collins reported on the acoustics in the hall. All of the equipment is working, including the loop system. In the future two big speakers will be used.

The summer social was a success although some members complained about the seating arrangements. The Committee discussed the arrangements and agreed that it had been a good idea to try the new arrangement to encourage members to talk with other members they had not previously met. It was agreed that flexibility should be shown to members who object. One possibility would be to have two tables designated for new members, who would be joined by Committee members.

The Committee agreed to announce this plan for the Christmas social, and to have a greeter to help new members, at the November open meeting.

Chairman's Report

The next new members coffee morning will be on 3 October. Committee members should attend if possible.

The tree planting ceremony went well, thanks to Paddy Collins and the Committee members who attended.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer expects the Association will make a small loss for the current year. Trips and theatre visits are almost half of the Association's turnover.

Gift Aid status for the new charity has been agreed with HMRC. The old gift aid arrangements will be closed.

The old charity account will be closed after any subscriptions come in to it (mistakenly). Janti Mistry will remind the members at the next open meeting that subscriptions are to be paid into the new account. This applies to bank transfers and standing orders.

Membership Secretary's Report

Renewal cheques are already coming in. There have been 147 renewals so far.

124 membership cards have been sent by e-mail. There have not been any complaints so far. Janti has printed 23 cards and will post them later on. A reminder to renew membership will be made at the open meeting.

There have been 17 new members since July. 37 new members attended the most recent new members coffee morning.

The Committee discussed whether there was any limit on the number of members. The data base can handle any number; the only limit is the size of the hall.

Group Co-ordinator's Report

The tea rota is sorted.

A new member who is transferring in from Wales wants to start a cookery group and is prepared to be the co-ordinator.

Steve pointed out that there continues to be a problem with finding group co-ordinators to lead new groups that are proposed by members. An example is the proposed Antiques and Collectables group. This is due to the mistaken belief that a co-ordinator must be an expert in the field. If the members who are interested in a new group get together a leader will emerge. Steve will ask interested members to meet after the open meeting.

Speaker Secretary's Report

Speakers for the open meetings have been booked through April 2019. Linda's shadow is in place and will come to the next open meeting.

The Committee discussed Linda's observation that it is difficult to find speakers. Most who approach her have something to sell. Currently we have eight speakers a year.

Attendance at open meetings is declining. The Committee discussed how to address this. Interest groups could be asked to be responsible for the presentation, which would not necessarily have to be the group's subject. This would take the pressure off of the Speaker Secretary. Another idea is to have a workshop style meeting. A quiz very occasionally was also suggested.

It was suggested that we have fewer speakers but pay them more.

It was agreed to put the issue to the AGM for a vote.

Linda announced that she does not want to continue as Speaker Secretary beyond her current term of office. A nomination form for Committee members was included in the Newsletter.

Newsletter Editor's Report

Carolina reported on the latest edition of the newsletter. She has been editing out duplications and infelicities. She has gone back to the A4 format as it is better for photographs.

The coffee mornings are going well although the August morning was a bit spare. The cost of the room is being covered.

New Matters

The form of name tag for Committee members prepared by the Secretary was approved.

The Committee agreed to continue the practice of providing group co-ordinators with diaries. The Treasurer will order the same number as last year and they will be made available at the open meeting in October.

The Committee agreed to replace Clive Cowdry with Carolina Kenealy as one of the bank signatories on the CAF account.

The Committee agreed that the bank signatories on the Association's bank account with Lloyds Bank will be Martin Paul, Paddy Collins, Carolina Kenealy and Steve Heywood.

The Committee reviewed the Third Age Trust insurance policy rules on coverage for nonmembers. The policy does not cover non-members and therefore no one, including grand-children, who is not a member may go on a U3A trip.

Paddy Collins will e-mail this clarification to everyone who uses a bus and to the walking groups co-ordinators.

The Secretary reported that Clive Taylor, a representative of Ellys Manor House, had asked that the Association publicise to its members that the Ellys Manor House was seeking signatures on a petition asking the Government to remove the historic environment from Parliament's National Planning Policy Framework or have the Framework go back to Parliament for further consideration. The Committee agreed that it would not agree to the request.

Next meeting to be held on Monday 22nd November, 2018 at 10 am in the Council Chambers at the Buckingham Community Centre.

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