



Buckingham & District U3A Minutes

For the 242nd Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am 26 October 2020 via Zoom.

Participating: Lilia Bogle (Vice Chairman), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Derek Morgan (Webmaster), Lorna Joy (Membership Secretary), Steve Heywood (Group Liaison Officer), Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary), Ann Abrahams and Cliff Dammers (Secretary).

Apologies:

Martin Paul

Absences

Carolina Kenealey (Newsletter Editor)

The Chairman welcomed the Committee Members and Ann Abrahams and opened the meeting.

Matters Arising

The Vice Chairman reported that Martin Paul attended the Third Age Trust AGM on 29 September via Zoom.

The Secretary had sent a draft of the minutes for the Group Co-ordinators meeting to Martin Paul and Steve Heywood for corrections or approval. The Committee instructed the Secretary to distribute the minutes and the Webmaster to post them on the Society's website.

The Committee discussed the decision to conduct a survey of which Groups were meeting. The Vice Chairman will ask the Chairman to ask the Group Liaison Officer to carry out the survey.

The Committee discussed the Newsletter. The proposed survey on whether the Newsletter should be in online form has not been carried out.

One possibility for the Newsletter in the future is to have Group Co-ordinators submit “articles” which the Webmaster could post on the Society’s website as a newsletter. However, few Group Co-ordinators are currently contributing material. The Chairman would have to control the contributions. In addition, each Committee member could contribute material.

An alternative is just to have posts on the website as rolling information. This would be different from a fixed date. Would members look at it?

The Committee discussed the proposal to establish a Group Co-ordinators’ forum. The Webmaster has set up a Facebook site and sent an email to all the Group Co-ordinators inviting them to join. 18 members, including the Chairman, the Webmaster, the Group Liaison Officer and the Membership Secretary, have signed on. Four of the signers on failed to agree to comply with the rules of the site. Three Group Co-ordinators refused to join.

The Group Liaison Officer said that the forum was very useful. The next step is to persuade the Group Co-ordinators to use it. A plea to do so will be made at the Open Meeting on 28 October.

Ann Abraham has volunteered to serve as the Membership Secretary and Lorna Joy has been familiarising her with the task. The Committee authorised Lorna to send Ann the membership spreadsheet with live data. Upon nomination and second Ann Abrahams was co-opted to the Committee as Membership Secretary.

The Committee discussed combining the role of Co-ordinator for Theatre Visits and Outings and Visits. The two roles had been combined in the past. The Chairman was going to follow this proposal up with a member who had expressed interest.

Nomination forms for the Committee are available on the Society’s website and will be on the agenda for the AGM.

The Vice Chairman raised the issue of speakers from commercial enterprises who try to sell their company. The speaker at the September Open Meeting was from Homestead, a private company, and gave a rather superficial talk on the signs of dementia. There was some advertising on her slides. The Committee confirmed that the Society’s does not have a policy of not inviting speakers from private companies.

Preparation for the AGM

The Committee discussed arrangements for the AGM in November. The Society’s financial accounts are posted on the website. The members and the Group Co-ordinators will be sent an email about the AGM and all the details will be posted on the website. The AGM will be held via Zoom. A quorum is 5% of the members. The Secretary, in co-ordination with the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, will prepare the letter to members.

Treasurer’s Report

The Treasurer reported that the Association’s finances are in good shape. There is a surplus of £5,000 for the current year. It is impossible to predict the financial situation in the coming year.

Group Liaison Officer’s Report

Two thirds of the Groups are carrying on, with virtual meetings or outdoors.

Membership Secretary’s Report

The Society has 818 members. 52 members joined since October 2019. Some members have let their standing order roll over. Some have asked that the payment should be treated as a contribution. Some payments have come from CAF accounts.

The Treasurer will put Ann Abraham on the Society's bank account as an authorised signatory.

Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster reported that the GC's Facebook Forum is up and running. The Third Age Trust has adopted a new logo. The Committee decided to continue with the Society's existing logo.

Work is continuing on Beacon, the possible replacement for RoundCube, but there remain many unresolved issues. The Webmaster recommended that the Society continue with RoundCube and the Committee agreed to do so.

Speaker Secretary's Report

The Speaker Secretary thanked the Membership Secretary for emailing members about the Open Meeting. Attendance at the Open Meetings has been declining.

The Committee discussed the Christmas Social. It cannot be held face to face and the Committee discussed possible virtual alternatives. A quiz, a DVD on a Christmas theme, music?

Zoom does not work well with a large number of participants.

No speaker has been booked for December.

Any Other Business

The Committee resolved to add the Vice Chairman, Lilia Bogle, and the Membership Secretary, Ann Abraham, as signatories on the Society's bank account. It will be necessary to remove one or two of the existing signatories.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on a date to be decided in December 2020 at 10 a.m. (It was subsequently decided that this was unnecessary)

Charity No. 1177534