



Buckingham & District U3A

Minutes

For the 243rd Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am 23 November 2020 via Zoom.

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

Apologies: None

Absences: None

Welcome: The Chairman welcomed the Committee Members and opened the meeting. As this was his last meeting as Chairman, he thanked all the outgoing Committee members.

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2020 were approved.

Matters Arising:

The Chairman reported on his attendance at the Third Age Trust virtual AGM. The proposal to increase the TAT subscriptions was rejected. The TAT meeting mentioned the process of changing its branding but there was very limited discussion about the change. Focus groups were mentioned but we had no information about those, the change seems to be with the logo.

The Committee discussed the arrangements for the Association's Annual General Meeting to be held on 25 November 2020. The Constitution does not require written nominations and seconds. A quorate is five per cent of the members. It is important that Lilia Bogle have the names of all of the candidates. There is no candidate for Vice Chairman. During the meeting the procedure is for the outgoing Committee to hand over to the new Committee once the new Officers have been elected. It is usual for the outgoing Chairman to become President, and the previous President is thanked.

Groups Liaison Officer's Report

Steve Heywood reported on the survey of Group Co-ordinators that he had conducted in the autumn. There was a 70 per cent response from the groups. 32 groups had not been able to meet at all as venues were not available because of the coronavirus restrictions or the nature of their activity prohibited getting together. He will report on this at the AGM.

There is great enthusiasm. Groups met in gardens until the weather changed. Many groups are meeting via Zoom although some could not make Zoom meetings work because they are reluctant to try.

Lilia Bogle commented that some groups are communicating with each other, for example by email. The Garden Group is publishing a monthly newsletter.

The Committee discussed the future of the Newsletter. It was agreed to persevere but the Association needs a volunteer. He or she will have a free hand and the Newsletter could be physical, a FaceBook page or something else. An appeal will be made at the AGM for someone to come forward.

Derek commented that 50 people have looked at the Third Age Trust national newsletter.

There are 18 members on the Association's Group Co-ordinators FaceBook page. More and more people are using e-mail.

The Committee discussed the need to find a replacement for Di Procter, who has led the theatre outings for many years. The position could be combined with outings, as it has been in the past. Di Procter has closed the books on the theatre trips and has settled up all the cash. This is not time sensitive as the theatres are closed because of the coronavirus. A member of the Association has indicated that she may be willing to lead the outings.

The Committee decided not to have an Open Meeting in December. The Groups are still encouraged to meet and this will be mentioned at the AGM.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the Association's bank mandates must be updated. Carolina Kenealy will be removed and Lilia Bogle will be added. The other mandate holders are Paddy Collins, Steve Heywood and Martin Paul.

The Gift Aid claim was submitted a week ago.

Membership Secretary's Report

The Membership Secretary reported that 76 new members joined since August 2020. Members have paid £1827 since October (118 members).

The Committee thanked Lorna Joy for her service as Membership Secretary.

Webmaster's Report

The Webmaster reported that there are several ways to meet virtually. Microsoft Teams is now offering on-line meetings for up to 300 people, lasting up to 24 hours. Free of charge. Skype is also possible. Groups are responsible for sorting out their communication systems, any fees could be regarded as the equivalent of room hire which is not currently being paid.

Comments were made that Teams is more complex to use than Zoom. The free Zoom sessions are 40 minutes, and it is possible to log out and start a new session if meetings are longer than that.

The Webmaster reported on the Group Co-ordinators FaceBook page which is very quiet. The Committee agreed to continue with the page. The issue of technophobes is a problem.

Comments were made that perhaps those already on Facebook are on several groups at the same time, and therefore feel they have nothing much to contribute. Others are very suspicious of Facebook generally.

Speaker Secretary's Report

The Speaker Secretary reported that the speaker programme for 2021 is a bit up in the air. It is necessary to exclude speakers who do not do Zoom presentations. There will be a full programme of speakers in 2021. Members are encouraged to join the Zoom meeting at 2 pm.

Any Other Business

The Chairman said that the Committee must focus on finding shadows for Committee Members. Ann Abraham had been shadowing the Webmaster for some time, until she became Membership Secretary.

Derek confirmed that he will be needing a shadow taking into account that his term will officially end next year. He has had some software support but this has not included shadowing as such.

A plea will be made at the Association's AGM.

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on 25 January 2021 at 10 am via Zoom.

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