



BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES

**For the 266th Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am Monday 20th February 2023
online via Zoom**

Present: Lilia Bogle (Chairperson); Howard Mordue (Vice Chairman) Paddy Collins (Treasurer); Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary); Mark and Katerina Owen and Arthur Newman (Group Liaison Officers); Sarah Katz (Newsletter Editor); Derek Morgan (Webmaster); Dorothy Morgan (Secretary). Guest: Ruth Newell

Apologies: Janti Mistry (Membership Secretary)

Absences: None

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the apologies were accepted. There were no absences.
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 23rd January 2023:**
These were approved subject to some matters arising outlined below.

New Members Coffee morning dates had now been agreed, to be at 3 monthly intervals. DMM confirmed they were available from the Events section on the Simple site, but would send these to the GLO as well. LB and DMM had discussed the format of the presentation and Agenda to be used for the sessions. One or two of the GLOs are requested to attend these when available.

Tables for one or two groups could be set up at the meetings, with the boards out. There will be a presentation at the meeting, with the history of U3A, etc. KO and MO would meet with DMM to discuss the session requirements. LB would also meet with them.

Action: GLO/DMM/LB

Regarding catering for other social events, LB had met with the 3 organisers for a discussion on possibilities. She had identified a source for sandwich platters which could be ordered and paid for in advance, and collected on the day. This would allow the organisers to lay out a buffet for the attendees to help themselves, and minimise their tasks. The Committee felt this would be a good solution and could be explored further.

LB had received a message from a member that there had been an incident at one of the activity meetings last week, and this would need a report to be completed under terms of U3A Insurance. Agreed this would be sought from the GC involved. **Action: DMM**

3. Vice Chairman's Report: The new Members Welcome Pack had now been printed in readiness. The A5 flyer had also been reprinted with the new contact details. The banner is now at the Community centre and available for meetings.

He had attended at the 3Bs (Buckingham, Bicester and Brackley) radio studio which is set up at the University. This is a Community broadcast over the internet only, on a streaming platform. They are intending to widen their coverage via a Licence. Our U3A could potentially have a slot on a Tuesday or Thursday which would be 1 hour of music and some commentary. This could include interviews with GCs which could be pre-recorded rather than live to fit into the programme. Requests can be sent via phone, online, or in person.

Two more people would be needed to assist with this if it's to move forwards, on a rota system. It seems to be more of interest to people in Buckingham. It may expand as it continues. Anyone interested in helping could speak to the organiser and see how it works.

There had been a request for paying by credit card which many people preferred. He had experience of one called Sumup, which has a percentage charge. Apparently, this would be for about 30 people a year. However, DJM pointed out that many of these couldn't be used for membership fees, just for donations, as mentioned in a U3A report. PC said that he had investigated having one from the Bank but there seemed to be a lot involved, including an indemnity element, and didn't feel it was worthwhile pursuing.

There was some discussion with regard to the banking situation locally, where all the banks have left the town. There is a major bank which holds sessions at the Library, but these are for advice only, no other facilities. The Council are still exploring the possibility of a Banking Hub which would give more flexibility to users.

PC confirmed that cheques and cash could be paid in at the Post Office, but with some restrictions on amounts.

Regarding local events such as from the Town Council, HM would send these dates on to the Committee. **Action: HM**

4. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer reported that the Annual Report (TAR) had been completed by himself and the Secretary last week, and submitted. There were no issues arising with that process. Following the mention of a card reader above, he confirmed that at present it wasn't being actively followed up. Regarding the Banking Survey sent out by DMM he confirmed that because finances are managed online, we haven't faced many of the difficulties encountered by other U3As.

5. **Newsletter Editor's Report:** SK confirmed that the Newsletter had been sent out by email, and that she would bring along some printed copies to the meeting on Wednesday. The next deadline would be the 12th May.
6. **Membership Secretary's report:** A report had been submitted in advance of the meeting, with the current figures. JM summarised the total membership which is now at the level it had reached last August, before the renewal process started. There is an ongoing need for an automated process to lapse members in the system, as this is time consuming. The developer has been requested to look into this, and JM would hope it can be brought in before the next renewals take place.
7. **Speaker Secretary's Report:** RS confirmed the speaker planning for the forthcoming meeting. There was no need for any extra equipment to be provided, he would bring anything required. A few people contacted him for more information. The banner is available in the blue bag at the centre.
8. **Group Liaison Officer's Report:** KM reported that a new Recorder group had been proposed and would be kept on hold for now awaiting availability of the organiser.
Handbells would like to have more members.

They had received a message from Thornborough Village Hall who wanted to know if we were interested in using their venue, which was currently being renovated.

The meetings for GCs introduction to the Simple system were being organised, they would invite attendees. However, there were few responses to emails about this and it was felt that a more targeted and individual approach would work better. Webmaster confirmed that about half of the groups had so far moved over to the new system. They would liaise with DMM to look at the best way to move it forwards.

Action: GLO/DMM

9. **Webmaster's Report:** He had received responses to the Quick Reference and Week chart sent out at the same time as the Newsletter, from GCs who wanted their details updated. When replying he had reminded them about Simple Membership. Our Guides and Policies are now all available on the website.
10. **Any Other Business:**
The report from DMM regarding the TVN and Network meetings was acknowledged. One matter highlighted in the Regional meeting was the need for a Safeguarding Policy, and a draft would be submitted for the next meeting.

Next Committee Meeting (267th) to be held on Monday 20th March 2023 at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom.

Charity No. 1177534