



BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES

For the 267th Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am Monday 20th March 2023 online via Zoom

Present: Lilia Bogle (Chairperson); Howard Mordue (Vice Chairman); Paddy Collins (Treasurer); Janti Mistry (Membership Secretary); Arthur Newman, Mark and Katerina Owen (Group Liaison Officers); Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary); Derek Morgan (Webmaster); Dorothy Morgan (Secretary).

- 1. Apologies:** Sarah Katz (Newsletter Editor)
- 2. Absences:** None
- 3. Welcome:** The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the meeting, and the apologies were accepted. There were no absences.
- 4. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 20th February 2023:** These were approved.
- 5. Matters arising:** DMM confirmed that an Incident report had been received from the GC confirming the circumstances. The report had been filed, with no further action necessary.

A New Members coffee morning had been held on 15th March. Some Committee members felt that the room was too small and there were too many people for the size of the space, particularly with the projector and screen set up. If more people had attended, then the room would be too small. Using less tables would have resulted in more crowding for the attendees. The meeting had generally gone well; feedback received to date was very positive.

LB had received notification of an event being held by the Villages Community Board. HM informed the Committee that he was aware this was an organisation allowing local businesses to advertise on a small scale, and capital project funding could be applied for. The Committee concluded that they wouldn't participate on this occasion.

LB had noticed an attractive table cover used by Handbells at the new members meeting, and suggested obtaining a quote for something similar for our U3A. MO was aware of a source for these and would obtain a quote.

Action: MO

Regarding the banner, HM updated the Committee and said this could be renewed with different artwork, due to issues with the quality and durability of the current one. **Action: HM**

He updated the previous information on banking hubs to confirm that premises are being sought in Buckingham, and these would allow Banks to rotate their presence to serve local customers.

LB suggested a welcome team could be created for meetings, with 4-6 people. She was meeting with some members regarding setting up a separate team for catering. **Action: LB**

6. Treasurer's Report: PC reported no problems with current finances.

7. Newsletter Editor's Report: SK had sent apologies and stated there were no immediate updates regarding the newsletter. She would be sending out reminders to GCs for the next one due in May.

8. Membership Secretary's report: JM had circulated a report before the meeting. Current numbers were 767, with 19 joining in the last few days. In response to a query from LB he stated that 99% of new joiners didn't offer to help via filling in the section on the form. He will keep updating as and when this information is available.

9. Speaker Secretary's Report: At the Open meeting on Wednesday, there will first be a short slot for a Ph.D. student to ask for help with a survey about prescriptions. The main speaker after that will be Roger Edwards, with a presentation on the 10 Dukes of Buckingham. He would need the projector for the meeting. **Action: DJM**

DJM had suggested asking Alina Orchestra, who are the official orchestra in resident for the University, for a quote to provide their "Band in a Van" as entertainment for socials. RL confirmed he would pursue this suggestion and obtain a quote. **Action: RS**

The next dates are confirmed as Wednesday 26th July for the summer Social, and Thursday 14th December for the Christmas Social.

10. Group Liaison Officer's Report: AN reported that the date for the next GCs social meeting would probably be May or June. Scrabble group has closed, due to nobody else wanting to take it on when the GC wished to step down.

There is still some confusion among GCs regarding the new system. DJM pointed out that the main benefits were Data Protection for them and their group members.

Most responses from GCs who are using the new system are positive, with a very few who remain unwilling to engage with the process. One GC was having difficulty accessing using an iPad, but would be receiving some individual help with this.

MO outlined the new groups situation, these include Astronomy, Basic Spanish, and Pickleball has just started.

Regarding the 3Bs radio, it was felt most GCs would prefer to record an interview rather than attend. DJM suggested a "Radio Group" might be a good idea.

- 11. Webmaster's Report:** DJM felt that many GCs were confused regarding various aspects of the system. The Committee discussed these areas including ICE which had caused misunderstandings. This is optional for members to complete, so that GCs see it on the Registers. If members choose not to fill that section in, then they can use the cards instead, or opt out if they wish. This doesn't seem to be entirely clear to GCs despite messages explaining the situation.

Another area was the use of WhatsApp within groups, which he felt should not be used exclusively as a way of communication, but as an extra alongside the official email. Some members may not have a smartphone or prefer email/telephone. Any communication using that method wouldn't be available to a successor to the GC.

One GC has failed to make any contact at all in response to his messages for updates on the group status, so that the page and the reference document can be updated.

MO suggested making a video for GCs showing them how to log in and edit/manage their group. DJM will look into that possibility. **Action: DJM/DMM**

Email issues had arisen recently with messages from specific ISPs going into spam (e.g. BT Internet) or being marked as such, incorrectly. There had been delays in receiving messages, which suddenly arrived several days after being sent. He had raised this with the hosting company who had looked into it and removed a "greylist". He suggested everyone should check their Spam folders, although he had whitelisted several addresses which seemed particularly troublesome.

- 12. Any Other Business:**

Safeguarding – the policy was approved subject to some small amendments.

Next Committee Meeting (268th) to be held on Monday 24th April 2023 at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom.

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