



BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES

For the 272nd Committee Meeting held at 10.00 am on Monday 25th September 2023 online via Zoom

Present: Lilia Bogle (Chairperson), Paddy Collins (Treasurer), Janti Mistry (Membership Secretary), Howard Mordue (Vice Chairman), Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary), Robert Winks (deputising for DMM)

Apologies: Sarah Katz (Newsletter Editor), Dorothy Morgan (Secretary), Arthur Newman, Katerina and Mark Owen (Group Liaison Officers)

Absences: None

Welcome: **LB** welcomed back those present after the Summer break, and then reflected on the very sad loss to the committee of the webmaster Derek Morgan and his huge contribution to the U3A. She noted that his widow Dorothy continues to serve the Association as Secretary and pledged full support for her and her family.

Minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 24th July: In item 4 PC clarified that the change to Trustees now having to sign up with the Charities Commission personally was that their report was a public one. Item 4 should read that Sheryl (not Shirley) Hargreaves is taking over from Sarah Katz as Newsletter Editor.

Matters Arising

LB reported that the Summer Social on 26th July had gone very well and further to the comment in AOB of the July meeting Minutes the Simple System was now working well. The Coffee Morning for new members planned for September had not gone ahead but was now rescheduled for Monday 9th October.

DMM was still willing to represent the Association at the AGM of the Third Age Trust on 18th October and would do so remotely. Papers and agenda had been circulated to the Committee, whose members could attend if desired. **PC** agreed with this course of action and noted that she would have to step down as Secretary anyway after 3 years.

DMM had confirmed she was happy to continue as Webmaster. She had suggested that the

Secretary role could potentially be divided between two people: one to handle meetings and minutes, the other to take charge of administration of Charity commission regulations, Third Age trust membership and Trustees.

LB emphasised the urgent need for roles to be filled under the constitution including that of Membership Secretary. **HM** as current Vice Chair was well placed to succeed her as Chair but would welcome support.

PC's Shadow Sue Geary would replace him admirably as Treasurer. **LB** commended him for having done a "brilliant" job.

The Technical Resources post was yet to be filled but it was hoped that even a new member might be persuaded to take this on. **DMM** intended to put a note on the website about the vacancies and a note would also appear in the newsletter.

LB added that **RS** was doing a "sterling" job promoting U3A in the community and highlighted the need for this to respond to changes, as new members request a different type of meeting format such as hybrid (in person/Zoom) or even evening ones.

In response to **LB's** general query **RW** observed that the Udo D. mentioned in the Minutes was most probably Udo Dolz, well known in Buckingham Acoustic Club and Buckingham Twinning Association.

Treasurer's Report:

PC confirmed that all was in good order with the finances and confirmed that he would be on hand to answer queries and support Sue Geary in the transition period as she steps into his role.

He went on to advise that he had received a request from Richard Ford of the table tennis group following a minor accident, where a player moved quickly across the adjacent table causing a collision. The proposal to purchase a lightweight dividing barrier at a cost of £287 was approved. **LB** suggested that this provision should also be discussed with the Youth Centre.

Further to the comment in Matters Arising above, item 3, **PC** clarified further that Trustees were responsible for their own data, hence the need to set up their own account with the Charity Commission and have a personal password.

Newsletter Editor's Report:

None was given in the absence of **SK** but the committee noted that the last date for items to be included in the October newsletter was 29th September.

Membership Secretary's Report:

JM reported that there were 368 current members with 456 yet to renew. 17 new members had joined during the previous 4 weeks. He confirmed that Steve Warnes would take over as Membership Secretary and added that he would continue to help him as much as possible. **JM** noted that he would be absent at the 27th September monthly meeting, but that Fiona Catlin

would be on hand to collect any membership cheques.

Speaker Secretary Report:

RS confirmed that all was in place for the outside Speaker at the September monthly meeting.

Group Liaison Officer Report:

In the absence of all 3 officers none was forthcoming.

Webmaster's Report

Owing to her absence **DMM** had supplied her report in the meeting Agenda as follows: DMM has sent update on email issues, where messages were apparently not sent from Roundcube. Investigation revealed most were sent, but not received by the addressee, due to their mail server rejecting the message. Replies to some of these messages were going into Spam on our mail server.

The Hosting company have now adjusted various mail settings, and amended the spam filters, so that messages are now getting through more reliably. Spam box is now checked frequently, sometimes a few strays are there. Once they are sent to the correct inbox, they seem to arrive safely next time.

GCs are still recommended to use Simple Membership bulk email to message their groups, as this makes it easier to send, with replies arriving in the webmail inbox.

Any Other Business:

HM proposed that a start be made to plan for the Christmas Social to ensure a cohesive team approach as a structure was already in place. The meeting closed at 10.55 a.m.

Next Committee Meeting (273rd) to be held on Monday 23rd October at 10.00am via Zoom

Charity No. 1177534