



BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES

For the 273rd Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am Monday 23rd October 2023 online via Zoom

Present: Lilia Bogle (Chairperson); Howard Mordue (Vice Chairman); Paddy Collins (Treasurer); Janti Mistry (Membership Secretary); Arthur Newman, Katerina Owen, Mark Owen (Group Liaison Officers); Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary), Dorothy Morgan (Secretary and Webmaster); Sarah Katz (Newsletter Editor); Steve Warnes (Guest); Sheryl Hargreaves (Guest) (12)

Apologies: Sue Geary

Absences: None

- 1. Welcome:** **LB** welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked the attendees to introduce themselves, and their guests who were candidates for Trustee election.
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 25th September 2023:**
Approved subject to a small amendment in PCs report, to read that **LB** suggested discussing the question of a dividing barrier with the Youth Centre.
- 3. Matters arising:** **PC** reported that the screen requested by the Table Tennis group had been purchased and was in use. **LB** mentioned that the AGM planning would be discussed later in this meeting.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** **PC** reported that finances are in good order. Raised the question of the bridge tables at the Maids Moreton hall, which were used by the U3A. These are now in need of replacement and the more expensive ones may last longer. Requested permission from the Committee to purchase a new one costing £140.00 to see how long it lasts in comparison. This was approved.

Accounts were in process of being examined, and would be ready for the website soon. He would forward to **DMM** for the website.

He had received an email from Carolyn the GC of Pickleball to say she was closing the group and moving to another location. This would be a private group not a U3A one.

KO had also received notification of the closure of the Pickleball group, and requested it be taken off the website. The contact details for the group could be changed to the Group Liaison Officer email address. **DMM** would do this on their behalf.

- 5. Speaker Secretary's Report:** **RS** had to leave early so gave his report at this point in the meeting. He confirmed all was in readiness for the meeting on Wednesday and the speaker only required a microphone.

Regarding the Christmas Social, he has requested the hall be laid out with long tables along the perimeter, leaving some space available centrally for folk dancing.

- 6. Newsletter Editor's Report:** **SK** reported that the newsletter was almost done and there was just some last-minute editing. She had been working on it with **SK**, who confirmed she was happy to continue. It would be proof-read today and the print version ready for tomorrow. **DMM** confirmed she would send **SH** the Quick Ref Groups list for including with the Newsletter, for both the print and email version. **DMM** could assist with sending the email out to the membership.

Regarding the Newsletter request for an Events Co-ordinator, particularly for the Christmas Social, **KO** suggested that if we were unable to find an Events coordinator that we should buy in catering as we were running out of time, and no one was coming forward to facilitate this.

- 7. Membership Secretary's report:** **JM** confirmed that current numbers were as follows: 692 active members, 145 not yet renewed, 1 pending. The Bank receipts had been processed to the 18th October and there were a few more to be processed, he was awaiting clarification from the Bank.
- 8. Group Liaison Officer's Report:** **AN** had received some queries from Pam Tonge, with regard to the AGM preparation, expressing concern that the Committee would not have enough new Trustees to continue. She was also awaiting the July Minutes to be uploaded to the web site. **AN** would respond to her various concerns, saying that discussions were taking place and the Committee should have several new Trustees joining at the AGM. The Agenda would be sent out by 1st November, and the sign up on Events would be enabled after that. The July Minutes had now been uploaded, having recently been amended by **DMM**. A GCs meeting would be planned for the

New Year, providing there were enough attendees. The autumn Newsletter was about to be sent out.

MO felt it would be a good idea to survey GCs to see what technical equipment they would like to be available for them to borrow for their groups, apart from what's already in stock, e.g. the microphones, speaker, screen, projector etc.

AN confirmed the Dining Group was closed as it didn't fit with the U3A groups criteria of having an educational objective. He had received a new group suggestion from Hugh Morton for an IFA group, but not sure whether this would be appropriate. **LB** commented that financial advice is complicated and could result in problems. Regarding Pilates/Yoga/Keep fit it was difficult to run such groups which needed qualified trainers due to their specialised nature and possible health and safety issues. A suggested Food Hygiene course wasn't appropriate as we don't do qualifications.

KO mentioned that the Science group was on the way to re-starting at the RLS, currently in discussion with two potential new GCs. She also mentioned talking to a profoundly deaf member, who was saying she can use the hearing loop, but the microphone somehow interfered with this. She suggested speakers make sure the microphone is not covering their mouth so that she can lip read.

- 9. Webmaster's Report: DMM** had submitted a report with regard to the website, and felt this was generally in good order, although there had been a few issues recently with unwanted emails. She felt that with the assistance of the hosting company these were largely resolved, and would monitor the situation from now onwards.

DMM reported that Steve Meakin had agreed to become the Technical Support Officer for our U3A, and confirmed he was well qualified for the role, having his own audio/PA setup for his part-time work in setting up PA systems at various venues. He had previously fixed a problem with the large portable speaker. He wasn't currently able to store the equipment at home, but this could be discussed at a later stage. **PC** confirmed he was meeting with Steve in order for him to collect the equipment and go through the setup at the Community Centre.

- 10. Secretary's Report: DMM** submitted a report following her remote attendance at the Third Age Trust's AGM, which had proceeded much as expected. There was a resolution submitted by a U3A that the Trust make more efforts to publicise the movement, and this was passed despite the Trust saying they wouldn't seek to micro manage their members.

There was no resolution to raise the membership fees which would remain at £4.00 per member. TAT later confirmed in a discussion forum that they anticipated no need to raise the fees for another year.

Attendance was around 270 online, with a small number also attending in person at Milton Keynes. The number of votes cast was over 600, most voting remotely, with the remainder in person. The Trust will publish a video recording on their You Tube channel. A National conference is due to take place next July in York, which would be residential and consist of a number of workshops and presentations over 3 days. More information would be available shortly. **DMM** will add the link to our website.

Regarding the forthcoming BU3A AGM the draft Agenda was in preparation, and it was hoped to have enough members on the list to be elected as Trustees. This would be sent out via email at the end of October or 1st November to all active members. **DMM** had suggested the Secretary role could be 2 people with one to do Meetings and Minutes and one to do the Business part. There were some discussions taking place which may result in a candidate.

Some discussion followed regarding the format of the meeting, which should be similar to the 2020 meeting, when there was a change of Trustees. The Minutes for 2020 were available from the website, as were the Minutes for last year's meeting.

11. Any Other Business

The meeting closed at 11.35 a.m.

Next Committee Meeting (274th) to be held on Monday 20th November 2023 at 10.00 a.m. via Zoom.

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