



BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A

MINUTES

For the 275th Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am Monday 22nd January 2024 online via Zoom

Present: Howard Mordue (Chairperson); Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary and Vice Chairman); Sue Geary (Treasurer); Steve Warnes (Membership Secretary); Katerina Owen, Mark Owen (Group Liaison Officers); Sheryl Hargreaves (Newsletter Editor); Steve Meakin (Technical Support); Dorothy Morgan (Webmaster), Heather Haydock (Secretary) (10)

Apologies: Arthur Newman

Absences: None

- 1. Welcome**
HM welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023**
The minutes were approved with no changes.
- 3. Matters arising**
None.
- 4. Election of Trustees and Confirmation of President**
Lilia Bogle was elected unanimously as President and the following Trustees were elected unanimously.

Howard Mordue (Chairperson)
Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary and Vice Chairman)
Sue Geary (Treasurer)
Steve Warnes (Membership Secretary)
Katerina Owen (Group Liaison Officer)
Mark Owen (Group Liaison Officer)

Arthur Newman (Group Liaison Officer)
Sheryl Hargreaves (Newsletter Editor)
Dorothy Morgan (Webmaster)
Heather Haydock (Secretary)

5. Review of Christmas Social and plans for 2024

The event went well including the entertainment and quiz. The food was good but there was too much and so food was wasted because about 85 people came and we were expecting 100. There was a parking issue as there was another event in the town. It was agreed that an organising subcommittee should be formed for the Summer and Christmas social events, to include Jenny Stone.

Action: DM to send Jenny's email to HM and he will reach out to her.

Action: RS to speak to Jenny at the open meeting on Wednesday and to report there that we plan to set up an organising subcommittee for future large social events.

HM suggested that photos should be taken at such events for the newsletter and web site. Some photos were taken at the Christmas Social and SH asked for them to be sent to her. It was noted that we may need permission to use photos, particularly close-ups of individuals.

Action: All to send any photos from the Christmas Social to SH

Action: Event host to say at the beginning of the event that photos will be taken and people can object.

RS suggested carol singing at the next Christmas Social, with a professional group leading the singing. This suggestion was welcomed. SM confirmed that there is a professional speaker system in the community hall that could be used.

Action: RS to pass on suggestion to organising committee.

HM suggested a calendar would be useful for the committee.

Action: DM to consider how this can be developed.

A new members' coffee morning and an open meeting are happening this coming week. A projector and microphone are needed for Wednesday in the main hall – doors open at 2pm.

Action: SM to liaise with Paddy about equipment at the community hall.

Action: HM to provide Paddy's email address.

6. Treasurer's Report: SG reported that the finances are in good shape. At the AGM a question was raised about the money received for room hire and the money we pay for room hire; SG is looking at this. The bank mandates need

to be changed to new signatories – HM, SW and SG. An additional signatory may be added later.

Action: HM to confirm bank mandate signatories with Paddy.

DM holds a debit card that will expire in a year and the signatories can be changed then.

7. Newsletter Editor's Report

SH reported that she has some content already for the next newsletter including photos from the Christmas social, an article by Lilia and a summary of the last open event. DM noted that U3A official email addresses should be published rather than personal email addresses.

Action: SH to send an email to request further contributions to the newsletter.

8. Membership Secretary's report

SW reported that we currently have 61 more members than we had at this time last year. On Jan 16 2023 we had 731 Active members and 2 Approved pending payment. On Jan 16 2024 we had 787 members and 7 Pending.

We have quite a large number of lapsed members at 340. 254 of those lapsed in 2022, or possibly before, which means we have 86 members who did not renew in Autumn 2023. The equivalent number was 274 this time last year. There is no way of knowing if those lapsed members are attending groups unless group leaders ask to see current membership cards. SW suggested we simply class these members as having left if they are shown as lapsed for over a year. This was approved unanimously.

We have 6 approved but not activated members - they have applied to join but we haven't seen their fee payment. SW has emailed these and asked if they intend to pay or if they have paid how they did that.

203 of our 794 active and pending members do not show emergency contact details. This could be important in the event of an emergency. We now try to make sure these are supplied before we activate new members.

Action: RS to remind people about Emergency contacts at the upcoming open meeting.

Action: GCs to include in their next email to group leaders.

SH asked how the newsletter can be distributed to those who are not on-line.

Action: SW to provide SH with a list of people who have requested information by post.

9. Speaker Secretary's Report

RS noted that the upcoming open meeting on 24th January had been discussed earlier in the meeting and he had nothing further to report.

10. Group Liaison Officers' Report

MO reported that a meeting of Group Leaders will be arranged; Minutes of previous such meetings are available on the web site. The Chairman and Secretary should attend if possible.

Action: GCs to ask Paddy to check the availability of the hall on 4th or 11th March.

KO noted that the U3A screen is now in a locked cupboard downstairs in the library.

11. Webmaster's Report

DM reported that the web site has been tidied up and there is more work to be done. Email glitches are ongoing and DM is in correspondence with the hosting company.

12. Any Other Business

SW asked what the U3A attitude is to PAT testing. DM said it has been discussed in the national Facebook page. PAT testing may not be mandatory for voluntary organisations.

Action: DM to check on national guidance on PAT testing.

HM noted that the first Buckingham repair café will be held on 10th February and will include a PAT tester.

SG asked about insurance – does it renew automatically?

Action: DM to send the insurance cover note to SG.

Next Committee Meeting (276th) to be held 23rd February 2024 at 10.00.

Charity No. 1177534