



## **BUCKINGHAM & DISTRICT U3A**

### **MINUTES**

**For the 278<sup>th</sup> Committee Meeting held at 10:00 am Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 online via Zoom**

**Present:** Howard Mordue (Chairperson); Roland Simpkins (Speaker Secretary and Vice Chairman); Steve Warnes (Membership Secretary); Arthur Newman (Group Liaison Officer); Sheryl Hargreaves (Newsletter Editor); Sue Geary (Treasurer), Steve Meakin (Technical Support); Dorothy Morgan (Webmaster), Heather Haydock (Secretary) (9)

**Apologies:** Katerina Owen, Mark Owen

**1. Welcome**

HM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Minutes of the previous Meeting held on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

The minutes were approved with no changes.

**3. Matters arising**

SM had provided a detailed list of audio-visual equipment owned by u3a and what it cost. There was a discussion of how to estimate and cover the potential costs of replacement. HM suggested we could put aside money to cover the cost of replacing the expensive items rather than getting everything insured. It was agreed that we would keep this under review.

DM noted that the Lenovo laptop would soon be obsolete and the hard drive could be removed and the laptop sold. This was agreed.

**Action: DM to sell old laptop.**

She also noted that the newer laptop will be out of warranty later this year and may not be updatable to Windows 11. SW has this laptop.

**Action: SW to check whether the newer laptop can be updated.**

**4. Newsletter Editor's Report**

SH reported that articles are still coming in for the next newsletter, with the deadline for content of Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April. A few more articles would be welcome.

**5. Treasurer's Report**

HM and SG had a good meeting with the library. SG reported she is part way through compiling the asset list with inputs from DM and SW. She is investigating the situation with the handbells, and checking whether we own any sports equipment. She has had a request to pay for a set of croquet balls – this was approved as a one-off and the balls will be added to the Assets list of BU3A.

SG reported that the financial situation is alright but she is concerned about the costs of the summer social. RS replied that the organisers were keeping the costs down for the catering and entertainment. There will also be a quiz. The summer social will be mentioned in the newsletter. There will be a maximum of 100 people for the summer social and a waiting list for anyone applying after that.

**6. Membership Secretary's report**

SW provided a report before the meeting. Membership numbers are still increasing and now up to 830 members. The Gift Aid demand was uploaded to HMRC in early April. One of the group leaders has not renewed her membership but the rest of the group will still be insured.

**Action: AN to chase the group leader concerned.**

**7. Speaker Secretary's Report**

RS reported that arrangements are in place for the open meeting on Wednesday where a pathologist will be speaking.

Rebecca Garnett will present for 5 minutes at the May meeting on her research on deprescribing medication.

Buckingham Rotary have asked for the June slot – this was agreed. Men In Sheds will do the July slot.

The summer social was discussed under the Treasurer's report.

**8. Group Liaison Officers' Report**

The GLO's report was circulated before the meeting. The new Tai Chi and Environmental Sustainability groups have now started. The Folk Dancing group will be meeting on Friday at the University. Pickleball is not reforming and will be deleted from the system.

**9. Webmaster's Report**

DM reported that she continues to monitor the website generally regarding email and content. The website has been uploaded to new hardware and seems to load faster. The group Finance option on Simple is working fairly well if GCs want to use it. AN commented that only about 35 groups collect money as others meet at home, and many of these will be reluctant to use Simple. It was agreed that this system has some advantages and should be promoted but not be imposed on all groups. There was also a discussion of card readers, which are used in conjunction with the Simple system by other U3A groups. SW will investigate this option.

**10. Any Other Business**

SW asked some questions about equipment. It was confirmed no special sound system would be needed for the summer social. HM reported that the library has not been able to offer a discount on the screens but are checking on this following the meeting with HM and SG. HM will mention about the hearing loop system at the open meeting.

A group member had queried whether paid speakers could be used. The Committee agreed that this was not within the U3A ethos, which centres on collaborative learning between group members. If such a speaker was deemed necessary by the group leader (such as a subject expert), then the group would have to agree to fund this themselves. This is already mentioned in the GCs handbook, but there is another document from the Third Age Trust which contains FAQs on this aspect, and DM will circulate both to the GCs for their information.

**Next Committee Meeting (278th) to be held 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 10.00.**

**Charity No. 1177534**