

**Minutes of the Extra Committee Meeting of the Buckingham U3A held due to
the resignation of the Chairman in the Council Chambers
on Monday April 28th 2014**

Present: Clive Cowdy (Vice Chairman), Dusty Rodes(Speaker's Secretary), Carolina Kenealy(Newsletter), Val Bradley (Business Secretary), Gina Crouch(New Members) Joan Hatherley(Treasurer) David Angrave (Technical Resources) Di Procter(Minutes Secretary)

Apologies: Lesley Suggate, Roland Simpkins

Clive thanked everyone for attending the meeting at short notice.

Position of Chairman. Clive explained that according to the Constitution we cannot elect a new chairman until 21 days have passed from the receipt of Pam's resignation. It was unanimously agreed that steps to co-opt Bryan Weston Thomas as chairman should be taken at the next committee meeting. He was prepared to do this provided that the issues of travel and outings were finally sorted out. David commended Clive on his sensitive handling of the situation and his diplomacy in his statement at the monthly meeting last week.

Clive had received a letter of resignation from Pam dated April 26th. It was agreed that a letter should be written to Pam thanking her for all her work for the U3A in recent years and to express the hope that she will stay a member of the U3A. **Val to write letter.**

At this point Bryan Weston Thomas joined the meeting as a guest.

Bryan had been to see Beryl and told her she had been wrong to let the e-mail become viral. He had also telephoned the U3A and been told that there is no actual policy re holidays and free places. He also pointed out that Beryl had been doing it her way under 4 different chairmen. Having been on one of her holidays he felt that her presence adds value to the holiday and she takes a lot of responsibility.

Clive felt very strongly that if Beryl started to do Independent holidays it would split the U3A

Bryan felt that we should go back to before all this debate began and ask Beryl to continue with the theatres trips, outings and holidays with all the perks that go with the job. There would be one condition.

All transactions should be transparent. Every poster, flyer, notice and application form shall state what the benefits to the organiser are. That way every member will know and they can decide whether they want to support the holiday or not. He was positive that he could persuade Beryl to accept this condition.

He felt that if we agreed to this proposal we could get on with the process of running this very successful U3A branch.

We should immediately think about the Event Coordinator job description in preparation for when Beryl steps down. The new coordinator would know where he/she stands.

3 Proposals

Dusty proposed seconded by Carolina

1 That Beryl should resign immediately.

There were 3 votes for this motion and 5 against.

Dusty said he would be happy to still run the Poetry group and the Charity Stall.

Di proposed seconded by Joan

2 That Beryl should be given a written warning.

All agreed with one abstention.

The letter to state that she had brought the U3A into disrepute and the committee did not approve of her actions. **Clive to write letter**

After a much further discussion Gina proposed seconded by Joan:-

3 That there should be complete transparency for all future outings/holidays.

This was unanimously agreed.

Outings. Everyone agreed that this will stay as at the last meeting with the coach cost being shared by everyone.

Subsidy for organising holidays

Following 2 further resignations the Committee decided to revisit the subject of holidays.

After a discussion to explore support for different levels of subsidy
Clive proposed seconded by David

That from October 2014 anyone organising a holiday should be allowed to accept one free place, if offered by the holiday supplier, in any one year. For any subsequent holidays the organiser would only be allowed to accept a 50% allowance.

This was carried by 6 votes for and 2 against.

Resignations

Three people indicated that they were so unhappy with the decisions that had been taken at the meeting that they would probably resign.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.