

u3a Bearsden & Milngavie

Committee Minutes

Date: Tuesday 13th February 2024

Place: Milngavie Community Centre

Attendees: David Bland, Linda Boyle, John Davies, David Gow, Trish Kerr, David Martin, Richard Petty/Guest, Maureen Smith /Chair, Jim Thomson, Linda Tindall

Apologies: Anne Lindsay

Agenda item	Actions
<p>2. Minutes of December Committee Meeting & Matters Arising if not covered</p> <p><i>Maureen started the meeting by welcoming Richard Petty, Convenor of the Science Group, and hoped this would not be his only visit.</i></p> <p>Minutes were approved</p> <p><u>Item 5 Internet Security</u></p> <p>Jim Thomson (group co-ordinator) admitted that large groups would benefit from the use of Beacon whereas he couldn't see it helping smaller groups. WhatsApp is very popular with certain groups.</p> <p>Maureen suggested an article making sure everyone aware of security.</p> <p>David Bland mentioned the Message Bird is the popular way to communicate with an email in reply which is usually their own email address. He suggested it would be sensible to use a 'special' email address. It was agreed that this would be the way to proceed but Jim T. thought it could wait a couple of months to instigate.</p> <p><u>Item 4</u></p> <p>Allan Thompson had contacted Maureen to say that 'Singaloud' Choir are looking to increase their venues. Maureen suggested that our Christmas Coffee Morning might be a suitable occasion and will contact the choirmaster.</p>	
<p>3a Chair's Report</p> <p>One of the main points taken from a Chairs' get together on zoom end of January was regarding Finance. The recommendation is to have only 6 months to a year of estimated expenditure held in the bank account.</p> <p>It was also noted that some u3s's members, who wish the TAM magazine, must pay extra for their membership.</p> <p>Another point noted, if a u3a is a registered charity, the trustees (i.e. Committee) are liable for any debt accrued by the group.</p> <p><u>Milngavie Clubs and Societies Fair</u>: John, Linda T, Linda B and I manned a stall on the 3rd of February and met quite a few people who expressed an interest in BaM. It will be interesting to see if this results in more than expected new members.</p> <p><u>Paisley u3a Video</u></p>	

<p>All agreed it was a good production. The question was just how successful it had been. It had been viewed on their website and YouTube. Linda T. thought it would be good to aim at younger people before they retire. David M. advised that FB not attracting younger people anymore as they prefer TikTok and Instagram. He thinks a social media presence is vital. Linda T. thought 'brainstorming' should be the way to see how we proceed. Maureen asked if we should have a sub-committee to 'brainstorm'. David B. advised a story board was vital before going down the technical road and suggested asking membership if anyone could be of help. Maureen would find out more info from Paisley u3a and let us think about it for next month's Meeting. She asked David B. to put something on the website.</p>	<p>Maureen David B</p>
<p>3b Treasurer's Report</p> <p>David agreed with John Davis's input about the pros and cons of registering as a charity. If we choose to register, the OSCR site offers guidance in a link enclosed in his Report.</p> <p>Our subs are lower now than when the branch formed (£20). If we increase the basic subs to £15 & £25 (joint) from 25-26 we would more than cover our current costs.</p> <p>There will be a further deficit in 24-25 after which our free funds will be at a reasonable level going forward and an increase in subs will be necessary.</p> <p>David explained that he really wants simplicity in the financial records.</p>	
<p>3c Membership Report</p> <p>Numbers have risen from 659 – 683 which is a much larger increase than in previous months. Visits to the NL have increased which is good news.</p> <p>Regarding Terms of Renewal, John is working with David to agree on the best way for payment. He will talk at the MM about this and explain the difficulty with cash payments. He is processing the renewals through BACS, Mary Webster volunteered to process the cheque payments and Pamela has offered to deal with new members.</p> <p>John brought up the subject again of us converting to a registered charity and the pros and cons. He noted charitable status and gift aid separately and included detailed advantages and disadvantages in his Report.</p> <p>Richard Petty agreed that a lot of work would be involved so we all agreed to 'park' it for now.</p>	<p>Committee</p>
<p>3d Group's Report</p> <p>Jim is very pleased to see such an upbeat response to the many ideas put forward. There are waiting lists for some groups, and they have certainly caught the imagination of the membership. For instance ... Ballroom Dancing, Bird Watching, Crafting (from 7-20!!), Crime Fiction (full), Gardening (lot of interest), History Book Reading (up and running) Pie, Pint & Prattle (now Sociable Senior 2), Stories and Table Tennis.</p> <p>We all agreed it was great to hear.</p>	

<p>3e Website Report</p> <p>We all had received the detailed report from David with stats to end of January 24. There was nothing to add.</p>	
<p>3f Linda Tindall's Report</p> <p>Her primary concern is the cost of venues which is a problem. For instance, Massimos rental for a room, on a reduced rate, is £100. She asked if the Committee would agree to financing the hire of rooms, if required.</p> <p>Maureen suggested another venue to investigate is Gavins Mill, although this would have to be an evening event.</p> <p>Linda advised that the Burnbrae could be the venue for the 'Local Birdlife' event-a talk followed by a guided walk round Kilmardinny Loch. This could also be a suitable meeting for the new Bird Watching group.</p> <p>John D. suggested we set a budget for the one off events. Maureen said, in the meantime, she wished Linda to go ahead to organise events as most venues will be free (ie Waitrose/Dobbies).</p> <p>Update on Short Courses: Hanging Baskets: Possible date of 25th April and waiting to hear whether people should bring own baskets. Fashion: Postponed until September. Waitrose Wine Tasting: Contacting Brian about a date in May.</p> <p>Linda also exploring whisky tasting which we all agreed was a good idea and a few other suggestions given to her.</p>	
<p>3g Anne Lindsay</p> <p>In Anne's absence Maureen spoke about how many people are appreciating her NL and that Anne is enjoying producing it.</p>	
<p>4 Greater Glasgow & Central Belt Networks.</p> <p>Maureen advised that Jenny used to represent us at the Central Belt meetings. Groups represented are from the Central Belt and meetings are on a Tuesday am, every 3 months, on Zoom. They did try to accommodate us by changing from the 3rd to the 2nd Tuesday in the month. Problem is, someone on Committee should attend.</p>	

<p>The Greater Glasgow Network meets every 3 months at Glasgow University. More informal meetings with no set agenda, so a bit more relaxed. Maureen is happy to attend this.</p> <p>Maureen also thought that GGN is more important to us. There was a talk about whether CBN was necessary.</p>	
<p>5 Fit for the Future</p> <p>The proposals are to introduce a new style u3a Council and new u3a Board and Maureen had circulated papers from the Trust for information.</p> <p>Maureen said each u3a will have the opportunity to find out about, and vote on, their proposals. It will be a vote on change of structure.</p> <p>The Pilot Council is hoping to gauge support for the change and, if they wish us to have an extra layer of governance, need a large majority for this to succeed.</p> <p>Jim T didn't think we were being held back. What did we need out of all these different levels. Richard P said, "logo helps". David M also said we needed Website, membership software, Beacon etc.</p> <p>The existing Board will not submit a proposal for change at the AGM in October unless there is likely to be support for the resolution</p>	
<p>6 AOCB</p> <p>David M advised everyone about Microsoft 365 and changing to personal passwords. Very important if storing documents. Isobel McQueen is helping so need as licence for her.</p> <p>Jim T asked David B about Word Press. David said its progressing slowly. Its early days, with lots of checking, so another 12 months.</p> <p>Jim T put a question forward about a 'story board' for Website and to take a fresh look at it. It's about the same format as 5 years ago. Maureen suggested we find a 'fresh eye' (not u3a). There is an option to start from scratch, taking 3-4 months, but David B not really wanting to go down this road. He will look into pros/cons of migration. What do we actually want on the website! It was suggested it would be great if we could all look at various u3s's websites and we can talk again. Calverton is a good example.</p> <p>Maureen had been asked by George McKay about members visiting older members who are housebound. Richard P thought this could be dangerous with the protocol etc. It was agreed, although a lovely idea, not practical.</p> <p>David M told us that Chester u3a Monthly Meetings are sent out online. We talked about accessibility to Hall and about putting our MM online.</p> <p>Trish asked about Posters, and it was agreed to leave this as info changes.</p>	<p>Committee</p>

Next meeting

10AM TUESDAY, 12th MARCH 2024

AT MILNGAVIE COMMUNITY CENTRE