

Minutes of Bishop's Stortford U3A Committee Meeting 8th January 2019

Present:

Keith Hicks KH	Jim Paterson (Speaker Co-ordinator) JP
Jack Treves (Treasurer) JT	Rene Locke RL
Kath Hird (Membership Secretary)KaH	Roz Howlett RH
Kim Shaw (Secretary) KS	Susan Shaw (Vice Chair) SS
Alan Draper AD	Stuart Jacobs SJ
Carole Scott CS	Sandra Baker SB
Ken Wheatley KW	Maggie Sheils (Group Co-ordinator Mah Jong) MS

1. Apologies:

Colin Reed	
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Item:	Action:
2. Maggie Sheils was welcomed to the meeting.	
3. The previous minutes were checked for accuracy and signed.	
4. The Winter Newsletter The Committee were delighted with this. Some info needed updating: those concerned would contact Lesley.	KS to ask Lesley to circulate to local U3As. SS,KS,SB to distribute on Monday.
5. Diary Procedure Jean Hootton has resigned after 14 years. The Committee agreed she has done an excellent job and a proper thank you is in order. KS suggested in future there should be a small token of appreciation for leaving Committee members. Agreed.	KS to liaise re. March Diary and do her best to take over.
6. Policy on Trial Membership No problem for those interested in membership to have a look around. KaH always has membership forms available.	
7. Beacon KW fed back from the recent meeting in Birmingham. Beacon is very popular and reasonably priced but has major problems. TAT intends to replace it by 2020, and are increasing their costs to ensure sustainability. It was decided the Beacon Group should discuss the question fully at their meeting on 23 rd January and report back to the February meeting. Many thanks to KW for his attendance in Birmingham.	KS to put Beacon on next agenda and invite J. Poynter.

<p>8. Chair's Report</p> <p>RHS Visit Refund: in future, refunds should only be paid to RHS members.</p> <p>Offer of free tennis court use to U3A members on Wednesdays 12-2pm. Thorley U3A also contacted to make up numbers and RH to publicise.</p> <p>Exidex Retired people sharing ideas and experience. Have offered free talks. Marketing?</p> <p>Windhill Primary School Sustainable development exhibition cancelled but they will let us know if it is re-arranged.</p> <p>Jan Monday Meeting Will be very busy with Newsletter / New Members / Renewals/ Two trips</p> <p>AGM SS standing down but could continue to organise Trips temporarily while replacement found. Also need Vice Chair. Questions to be submitted in advance. Any asked on the day will be dealt with later.</p>	<p>KH to invite to March meeting.</p> <p>Committee to arrive 12.30pm. AD to create Powerpoint.</p> <p>KH to publicise on Monday. SS to write job description for Trips and Outings Manager. KH for Vice Chair.</p>
<p>9. Groups' Report</p> <p>MS reported Mahjong has 9 members signed up. They meet in each others' houses. Very informal. New members welcomed. Linking with Thorley U3A.</p>	
<p>10. Groups' Manager's Report</p> <p>RH just getting to grips with the role aided by RL and SB. Lots of changes happening. New groups / places advertised at Monday Meeting.</p>	
<p>11. Speaker Arranger's Report</p> <p>December: speaker somewhat impromptu as had departed from planned talk. January: on David Devant, magician. February: Growing up in the 1940s and 50s.</p>	

<p>March: AGM plus short speaker, possibly from Council. JP compiling list of recommended / highly recommended speakers for TAT.</p>	
<p>12. Membership Secretary's Report</p> <p>Attendance at December Monthly Meeting 104 Members attended the December meeting according to the scan report. This is lower than usual and may have been affected by Christine Miller's funeral which was on the same day.</p> <p>Membership Statistics 3 people have joined in December, which, taking into account the death detailed below, brings the current membership at end December to 1067. One person has changed her name from Hawkins to Peacock The usual Membership Update list has been sent to Alan Draper for onward distribution to the Group Coordinators The next New Member Induction Meeting will take place in January ahead of the usual Monthly Meeting.</p> <p>Membership Renewals Both Alan's latest Newsmail and the next Newsletter contain details of the ways in which members can renew their membership for 2019/2020. I have already received some payments by post. Renewals are being recorded on both the Beacon system and our previous arrangement.</p> <p>Beacon At the beginning of January I had received back 43 out of 64 Member Data Verification forms. I e-mailed Group Coordinators before Christmas to say I would like to receive the outstanding ones by the date of the next Monthly Meeting at the latest. Many of the Forms have large 'gaps' and in some cases I have received photocopies which makes reading the amendments difficult and is perhaps questionable in terms of 'proof' for GDPR purposes. Based on the Beacon statistics it would appear we only have 396 signatures so far, although around 670 apparently belong to groups.</p> <p>New Members Meeting KaH gave details for this. AD operating projector.</p>	<p>KaH to create reassuring data article for next newsletter.</p> <p>SJ to create sign re. diary info for board.</p>
<p>13. Treasurer's Report</p> <p>AGM agenda: JT questioned item 6. JT talked through the circulated accounts. Expenses increasing for both TAM magazine and rents. Also possibly for Beacon. To avoid a deficit, JT suggested subs increased to £15 in 2020. Will be 8 year since previous increase and bring us into line with other local U3As. Agreed. Also suggested any trips paid for directly to tour operator so no involvement in VAT.</p>	<p>KH to clarify if it should be removed.</p> <p>KS to circulate draft for newsmail.</p>
<p>14. Trips and Outings Report</p> <p>Copt Hall on 6th Sept added. Regret at cancellation of 2 trips. It was agreed that trips are one of the great assets of BSU3A.</p>	

Item	Action
<p>15. Secretary's Report</p> <p>KS suggested emailing condolences to church re. break in and to planners re. support for Markwell refurb. Agreed.</p>	<p>KS to mail.</p>
<p>16. Webmaster's Report</p> <p>STOMP haven't been in touch. Should we consider not subscribing to TAM? Complicated and to be considered at another meeting.</p>	<p>AD to contact again.</p>
<p>17. AOB</p> <p>Apologies from JP and SJ for next meeting.</p>	
<p>18. Meeting closed 12.08.</p> <p>Next meeting: 10am Tuesday 5th February.</p>	