

Boldon and District u3a

Minutes of Committee Meeting 10.30 13th June 2022

Present Chair P Devenport(PD) B Coombs (BC) Sheila Miller (SM) Gillian Cucci(GC) Jim Jordan (JJ) Cath Jordan(CJ)

1.Apologies for Absence : Sue Soulsby(SS) written report submitted

2.Minutes of previous meeting.

The minutes of the previous meeting on 9th May were agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Chairman's Report.

PD enjoyed a long discussion with Cecilia Coulson re managing the admin without a Vice Chairman, Business Secretary or Minutes Secretary. It appears to be a common problem with CC herself having many roles in her own u3a as well as being Regional Chairman. It was suggested that each officer submits written reports, and that we take turns to collate the minutes. It was decided we would try a rota PD, GC,JJ,BC,SS,CJ, with SM joining when she buys a new iPad.

PD has signed a letter of support for Whitburn Cricket Club in their bid to obtain funding for the installation of a lift to the lounge where our Contemporary music group meet.

PD has been in contact with Media Savvy who are running free IT courses for South Tyneside residents, via Zoom and YouTube. No courses have been received as yet.

PD is happy to report that some GLs have contributed to the newsletter, hopefully it will continue.

No progress has been made on identifying new members at meetings, or a members pack. **Keep on minutes until we resolve this.**

PD to talk to Denise Walter re reporting to the Charity Commission.

The website showed a slight increase in use this month, Facebook remains a tool for a few to communicate, lots of likes but few posts.

Beacon is rolling out new help features

5. Treasurers Report.

BC reported that the HSBC accounts have now been closed and the funds moved to an on line account with Virgin Money. We currently have funds of £9216, it was agreed that BC open savings accounts, depositing £5000 in a 120 day account with higher interest and another 'working' savings account, where the amount will fluctuate with need.

It was agreed that GLs be asked to send regular reports of money held on behalf of their members, BC will contact SS to send an email to GLs. BC will attend the next Regional Treasurer's meeting which will be attended by Beacon champions of the financial part of the software.

6. Membership Report.

We have a total of 261 members of which 17 have no email address, There were 2 new members last month.

50 of the 261 members have not renewed their membership so we agreed to mark them as LAPSED on Beacon, so that membership cards could be printed for current members.

PD reported that at the Regional Chairman's meeting, the security of membership forms was raised. Forms should be scanned and destroyed or locked away. GC will obtain a lockable document cabinet.

7. Groups Report.

At present we have 10 groups running; Art & painting, Art appreciation, Contemporary music, Bridge, Flower arranging, Photography, Mid-week walking, Rail enthusiasts, Scrabble and Technology.

We also have a lunch group. (need to ask Anita to keep us informed of where they are meeting)

Line Dancing is closed for the summer. Will review in Sept re venue, viability etc.

Exploring Technology is now in the Chapter House but Wifi reception is not good, PD & PW request that a wifi booster should be obtained, which would also be used by other u3a groups. PD reported that she is buying a booster for home so we could try it before buying one, this would benefit other u3a groups and the church.

SS has e-mailed Kath Robinson re returning maps etc from Sunday walking group.

Report from Regional GLs zoom meeting:

1. A lot of u3as/groups experiencing similar difficulties in recruiting new members/retaining groups/starting new groups.
2. A lot of u3as have seen a decline in health/ mobility of their members leading to some groups closing early for the summer break.
3. Reminder for GLs to attend insurance talk /zoom with Tony Carlisle.

SS has had one enquiry re interest in a Tai Chi group. This was run like the choir where expertise was paid for. After discussion it was agreed that it is possible to buy in expertise where members do not possess the skill set.

SS is thinking at the moment about organising a 'thank you ' lunch for group leaders plus other volunteers, maybe JULY/August???. Agreed it is a good idea.

Other thoughts: 40th Anniversary meeting cupcakes to celebrate national u3a!! PD had enquired about the price of cupcakes with u3a topper, £2 each. JJ to enquire elsewhere.

Boldon & District 10/11 year Anniversary After discussion it was felt that afternoon tea would be a good way of celebrating, JJ to enquire at the Sea Hotel and Littlehaven , how many could they accommodate and the costs involved (room booking , food , etc) Members will then be invited to a subsidised celebration which would go ahead if enough people were interested.

8. Speakers Report.

PD reported that Carol Cooke had contacted her to cancel her talk in July. It was suggested that SM contacts Stephanie and John Yearnshire who may be able to step in.

All Saints have been in contact to say that they are willing to serve tea and coffee during our monthly meeting but we would have to give a contribution. Groups who use this service normally pay £1. It was agreed we would continue as normal this month.

8. Any Other Business

GC informed us that Boldon Library would like to join forces with u3a to form a choir possibly on a Monday evening. The library have funding from Cultural Springs for initial start up costs, but need the name of a

choir master. PD reported that she had brought up the plan with Regional and they were happy for us to be involved in a joint group.

Date and time of next meeting

Next committee meeting 10.30 11th July

Next Monthly meeting 18th July