

**Boldon and District u3a**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting 2nd May 2023**

Present: Chair Pat Devenport, (PD). Susan Soulsby (SS) Gillian Cucchi (GC) Bill Coombs (BC). Sheila Miller (SM). Pam Marley (PM)

1. **Apologies for Absence**

Shirley Walkinshaw

2. **Minutes of previous Meeting**

Agreed

3. **Matters Arising**

No matters arising

4. **Chairs Report**

PD updated information required by the Trust, i.e. Roles within the committee and number of full members for capitation. It should be noted that the Roles need to be updated once the new committee is in place. The log on details have been changed to the generic email.

PD attended the Northern Region AGM via Zoom. The finances are so healthy that there will be no regional fee this year. Also Ryton u3a closed and their funds will be distributed to all u3a in the region (not yet sure if we have to claim this) The speakers list has been taken over by Peter Barnett and it is intended that it will be available on line. The next regional meeting is at Stannington on July 20th.

Kath Lodge ran a successful trip to Bishop Auckland, despite the weather, also 3 potential members were invited.

The next trip is to the workshop of Ray Lonsdale on May 17th.

Kath Lodge is organising a trip to Hartlepool to see The Tall Ships on Friday 7th July.

Paperwork for the AGM has been prepared, no further nominations.

5. **Treasurers Report**

Nothing much happened in this financial year

Only 3 payments out.

Invoices received from Beacon and Capitation fees

Bank balance. £6,003.10

Kath Lodge trip deficit £230.00

AGM free

No monthly meeting to be subsidised.

BC to get accounts checked before AGM

TAM to be chased up by GC

6. **Membership Report**

There have been no new members this month. We have 214 members

I have renewed all 214 members on Beacon for the year April 23 to March 24.

This year is free of charge to anyone who was a member in the year April 22 to March 23.

7. **Group Report**

All groups appear to be running smoothly.

The following groups have all agreed to present/ display something at the AGM.: Art&Painting, Photography, Flower Arranging, Scrabble, Music Appreciation, Railway Enthusiasts, Contemporary Music.(quiz)

I have also been in contact with Jess Jones who will come and explain about the strength training.

Jo Jones is looking at getting the 'reading' group started.

Following on from Sergio's inspiring talk last month I will put out an expression of interest list for those interested in learning 'how to' operate the defibrillator.

Looks like exciting times ahead if we can get two 'new' groups running and some 'one off' training sessions.

#### **8. Speakers Report**

SM to book speakers for the rest of the year, including Christmas party. Church hall has been also booked for the rest of the year.

#### **9. Beacon Report**

As you have seen from notifications, the log on details needed to access Beacon have been simplified, from 5 pieces of information to email and password. It is expected that all committee members will have changed so that they can guide members if necessary.

#### **10. Website report**

Report from Zoom session held on April 12th.

Currently we use SiteBuilder to manage our web site, this is free to all u3a, and has been supported by a small volunteer team for the past 12 years.

SiteBuilder is being replaced by a new u3a wide system based on WordPress , so will have extra functionality over SiteBuilder but keep the same standard overall look of a u3a web site, this system is called SiteWorks.

Siteworks is being rolled out gradually to all SiteBuilder users over the next 18 months with plans that it remains funded via capitation, so no extra charge, as currently.

Training sessions are to held with supporting videos on YouTube. As it is a completely new system I would suggest that other members of the committee, group leaders, or membership also train. There will also be a named SiteWorks contact to help during migration, similar to our champion during the Beacon start up.

Some of the existing site will be migrated automatically but images and documents will be handled differently so will probably need to be loaded individually. This is a similar situation to the recent loss of the site where PD was forced to reload images, which also gave the opportunity to clear outdated information.

The SiteWorks suite is to be managed centrally, i.e. servers managed by the Trust and no need for u3a to download WordPress onto individual computers, and therefore no need to manage WordPress updates as it will be handled centrally.

There is the possibility of integrating the web site with Beacon, but that would be in the future.

Having watched a YouTube tutorial on using SiteWorks, I am looking forward to the extra functionality and ease of use, WISIWIG (what you see is what you get) whereas SiteBuilder is quite clumsy e.g. # either side of a word denotes bold type.

#### **11. Facebook**

There are 60 members registered with Facebook, around 40 visit frequently – few post.

12. **Any Other Business**

Recruitment.

SW will need help with IT

PD to become communications officer

**Agreed** u3a to take part in summer fair at All Saints Church on Saturday 24th June, 12 ~ 4.

Booking form for summer fair to be completed by SS

SS organising tables.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Monday 12th June at Boldon Library.