

BRACKLEY & DISTRICT U3A
Minutes of the Committee Meeting
Thursday, 11th April 2024
at Brackley Rugby Club

Action

Attending Terry Pigott (TP) Chairman, Colin Gillies (CG) Vice Chairman, Mike Shepherd (MS) Treasurer, Janet Whitby (JW) Secretary, Janet Blunden (JB) Group Coordinator, Ian Nixon (IN) General Duties, Kathy Hodges (KH) Minutes Secretary, Alison Williams (AW)

Welcome TP welcomed the Committee to the meeting and welcomed Alison Williams back.

Apologies Diane Bushell (DB) Publicity Officer
Gill Zachar (GZ) Greeter/New Members Liaison
John Moore (JM) Programme Officer
Ken Smith (KS) Honorary President

Minutes of last Meeting Approved with no amendments

Matters Arising

Ros Fowler has started Book Club 2 which initially will take place in her house. A conversation ensued regarding the definition of a u3a member. National policy states that members should be semi-retired or retired. TP is of the opinion that we should accept anyone who is age appropriate.

Mike Kirkham has stated that he is happy to carry on as Webmaster at the moment but that someone should be found to be in place before the next AGM to work alongside him. IN has a contact, Gabriella Janson, who would be interested in the position but it seems likely that she will be moving to the Netherlands.

IN passed to JW details of his forthcoming Travel group trip to Chepstow.

REPORTS

Chairman None

Vice Chairman

CG has been passed a letter via Caryl Billingham from Rachael Page from SNVB concerning a project regarding Health Disparities in Brackley. CG will contact Caryl to clarify what involvement is being sought from the u3a. **CG**

Treasurer

£9,150.89 in the account at the end of our financial year. The end of year accounts have been passed to John Carter for auditing.

Recently MS has paid to £1,472 to National office for the 368 members reported to them by JW on 5th April. The amount in the account now totals £7,268.90.

JW expressed some concern over the processing of cash and cheques now that Lloyds Bank no longer have a branch in Brackley. She is currently using the Post Office which does not issue receipts.

MS was thanked by the Committee for his efforts after taking over as Treasurer from Ken Smith.

JW felt it was important that the Committee is aware of the funds held by all the groups. MS will bring a full list for the Committee to see at the next meeting. **MS**

IN expressed concern over the management of money for trips within the Travel Group. TP explained that u3a cannot be involved as a banker and it was suggested that IN contacted Bicester or Buckingham u3as to ascertain how they dealt with this.

TP and MS will meet to discuss budgets/forecasts.

Membership and Business

Total members – 386 including 24 associate members.

New members since last Committee meeting – 9.

Members without email paying for post – 1. Members requiring printed TAM – 42.

Renewals

Members renewed - 379

Renewals outstanding - 7

Members not renewing – 22 (5 moving, 1 left the choir, 2 ill health, 14 unspecified)

Two further reminders were sent out by 22nd March and DB undertook to contact the remainder of non-renewals and has gained renewals or confirmation that they are not renewing from the stragglers. Of the seven outstanding, we are still expecting at least two more. Janet thanked DB for her help.

JW was disappointed that many members did not confirm that the details she had circulated to them during the renewal process were correct.

On 1st April JW sent out the list of members who have not renewed to convenors and asked them not to allow access to their groups until the renewal is paid.

As usual Mike Kirkham has been very helpful in amending the Members email group to just include those who have renewed.

National u3a were quick to request our membership numbers on 3rd April and JW provided the information to them on 5th April. The number given was 368.

Overall for renewals 64% paid by bank transfer and 36% by cheque, a slight improvement on last year.

National u3a requested the magazine list for TAM on 7th March requiring a new login because it is a new supplier. This wasn't straight forward but JW provided it on 13th March.

Programme

More Speaker meeting cards need to be produced and JW will ask JM to arrange for another 100 to be printed and for the mistake in the October date to be rectified. JW/JM

Publicity

JW and DB have created an A4 sheet of all groups, which can be easily updated and added to the Welcome Pack if there are any changes. A copy has been put on the u3a noticeboard at the Baptist Church. This A4 sheet could be handed out to all members and can be given out at the next Speaker meeting. DB/JW

Regarding publicity, the next speaker meeting poster has been placed in Brackley Town Council window and also put on Facebook pages for Greatworth, Farthinghoe and Brackley groups.

Groups

As already mentioned the new Book Club 2 group is now active and meeting in Ros Fowler's house.

Now Alison Williams has returned to the Committee she will arrange to meet with JB shortly to arrange a handover. DB/AW

Website

Mike Kirkham supplied his usual report on recent website activity.

Any Other Business

A conversation ensued concerning next year's Committee. TP has compiled a suggestion for future roles and will circulate this to the Committee, together with the details of two separate roles for Membership and Business Secretaries, for future discussion. TP

The presence of the Blue Sash Team at the coffee mornings and the Speaker Meetings is considered important. JW was disappointed to discover that 5 members who had joined last year did not renew their membership.

JB had been contact by a woman hoping for u3a involvement in three local initiatives. The only one the Committee felt would be of some interest is that a new Town Centre Manager, Samantha Hoskins, has been appointed by West Northants Council to 'improve Brackley'. It was felt that she might be of interest at a Speaker Meeting. JM

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.25am

Date of next Committee Meeting: **Thursday, 2nd May 2024**

Minutes taken by KH
