

BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a
COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2023
BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM

Present: Jane Haresign (Chair JHa), Janet Foster (JF), Anne Pickersgill (AP), Rick Smok (RS), Robert Waltz (RW), Diane Prettie (DP), Eileen McKelvey (EM), James Hewson (JHe).

Jane welcomed James, a member of the Constitution Sub Committee, to the Committee Meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Marjorie Barr

- 2. Minutes for Approval and Matters Arising:** The July Minutes were approved, having previously been sent to all Committee members for comments and amendments. All agreed. A copy was signed by Jane, to be passed to Rick for inclusion on the website. No matters arising.

- 3. Chair's Report:** Jane reported that she had attended a Zoom meeting for publicising the u3a for u3a week. There were some good ideas for sources of material for making videos for promoting the u3a.
Jane has joined a u3a Facebook group called "Fit for the Future". There are lots of interesting discussions about recruiting volunteers and support from the Third Age Trust (TAT), including a thread about the name "u3a", and how people react to it.
Jane had approached several local u3a's about coming to Walking Cricket for taster sessions, and three were coming. Anne congratulated Jane for having set up the Walking Cricket Group and for organising matches. Jane said she had purchased bats and balls herself, rather than requesting a grant.

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Janet reported that there had been a very quiet couple of months since the last Committee Meeting. In August there was no income into the Main Account, and the only expense was the purchase of the new projector. The balance was £3515.62, and the balance of the Social Account, where there had been no August activity, was £680.43.

Janet advised it was time to send out application forms, with information, for the Christmas Social. Jane said she would send this email separately to members, so it would not be missed. **Action JHa**

5. **Secretary's Report:** Anne reported that she had been trying to complete and send the Annual Report in time for the November deadline. It was ready to go, and she would send it to Jane and the Committee for approval, before sending it off. **Action AP**

6. **Membership Secretary's Report:** Robert reported that there had been 1 new member since the last Committee Meeting. The total membership was now 255, of whom 98% were contactable by email.

Rick suggested that we send membership renewal forms next year and ask for updated information, including medical details, phone numbers and email addresses. It will need to be ascertained the best way to get the information from the members, which James, Rick and Robert will work on, ideally before Christmas. **Action RW, RS. JHe**

Janet suggested that if any new members join in September, that they should just pay the reduced fee, normally charged from October, as she will be away and won't be banking any cheques until October.

7. **Welfare Officer's Report:** Anne reported, in Marjorie's absence, that the only activity was sending a card to a member who had undergone surgery. Janet suggested that Group Convenors should check if members were ill if they failed to attend consecutive meetings.

8. **Group Coordinator's and Website Report:** Rick reported that from 12th September, those groups who used the Branston Community Library on a Monday, namely Family History, Scrabble and Mah Jong #1, would have to find alternative venues, as the school wished to have access on that day. All group leaders met with the Parish Council representatives in August and accepted the offer of the use of the Branston Pavilion.

Mah Jong #1: The Group Convenor of Mah Jong #1 has had to step down, due to ill health, and Pat Mundy has agreed to take over. Rick has registered Pat on Beacon and given her training on administering her group.

50's and 60's Music and Dance: Jackie Brammer has agreed to become co-convenor with Mo Ille. It was agreed at a meeting that the group would meet in the Church Hall on the 1st Monday of the month, and Jackie would let all interested parties know.

- 9. Programme Secretary's Report:** Diane was asked to give details of as many future speakers, and the title of their talk, as possible to Rick and James, so that the information could be included on the website and in the newsletter. James also asked for some background information on each.

Action DP

Diane reported that, apart from August, which would be the Summer Social, she had booked a speaker for every month in 2024.

Email re audio set up: There was some discussion following the receipt of an email from the Village Hall, inviting those u3a members who set up the audio equipment there to a session to make sure they know how to use the equipment correctly. Rick stated that they definitely did know how to set up the equipment, so it was agreed that Jane would reply, declining the offer, but saying we were aware of their concerns.

Action JHa

Raffle Plans: It had been agreed that a raffle, suggested by a member, would have a one off trial to see how it worked at the Monthly Meeting. However, after a long discussion, largely dealing with the concerns about the type of prizes, but other concerns were also raised, it was decided not to go ahead at all. Jane will contact the member involved to advise of the Committee's decision.

Action JHa

Hall Set up for October Meeting: Jane advised how she would like the Village Hall to be set up for the Bell Ringers' performance. As Jane would be taking part it was agreed Rick would propose the vote of thanks, and Robert would ask John Tyerman to make the announcements.

Action RS, RW

As Jane is not comfortable making announcements at the Monthly Meetings, Anne suggested we could have a group of people who could be called on to make the announcements. She thought this might even

encourage people to stay on as Chair, or volunteer as Chair in the future. In the first instance Jane said she would ask John Tyerman if he would make the announcements, for which he would need relevant background details.

Action JHa, DP

Sub Committee Minutes: Anne reported on the meeting of the Sub Committee, held on 17th August, to discuss possible amendments to the Constitution. She said it was a lively discussion, which had covered Proxy Voting, Online Meetings, Number of Committee Members, and ways to persuade members to join the Committee. Anne recommended that we concentrate on attempting to get more people onto the Committee before we drastically change the Constitution, as the real danger is that the u3a will fold if we don't replace those members leaving the Committee at the 2024 AGM. All agreed. James said our main objective should be to reach out as strongly as possible to find volunteers, which would need strong motivation from the top.

Demonstration of New Website: After weeks of trial and error, Rick said they had sufficient experience on WordPress to be able to give a presentation to the Committee to show what is available on the site. This would not necessarily be the final version. He demonstrated all the different aspects of what should be our new website, which should be a lot more user friendly. He and James hope to invite all Convenors and deputies to a presentation in October to show them the new site, and will take comments from the floor so that group pages could be tailored to the Convenor's satisfaction. Convenors could potentially be added to the list of users so that they could author their own page. It should be by the middle of next year that the majority of u3a's will be transferred over. Anne thanked Rick and James for all the time and effort they had put in to creating the new website.

Next Strategy if no Volunteers for Committee Posts: Anne suggested we should put together a script and go round and remind people what the u3a is doing for them, and what they will lose if it folds. This should be pushed out to the whole membership, not just at Monthly Meetings. James suggested something different each month should be put together

for the Newsletter, also an individual resume from each Committee member each month, showcasing what they do. **Action All**

Anne thanked James for his support on the Sub Committee, and for coming along to the full Committee Meeting to provide his input.

AOB: Anne said she had been asked by a member who our Equality and Diversity Officer is. Anne will reply that it is the Chair, as stated in the Policy which can be found on the Website. **Action AP**

Anne asked that the Incident Report Form should be filed as a separate entity on the Website, so that it can be found more easily. **Action RS**

Janet reported that Marcus Stead has been invited to the October Committee Meeting to discuss the Christmas Social.

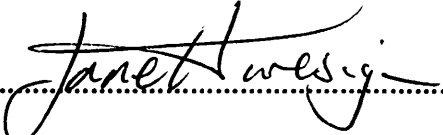
Janet proposed a vote of thanks for Anne for all the work she had done producing the Newsletter, also to James for moving it forward.

Jane said she would send out the Christmas invitations to members as soon as possible. **Action JHa**

Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 17th October 2023, Branston Sports Pavilion, 2pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4.15pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record


.....

Date

17-10-2023
.....

TREASURERS REPORT October 2023	
RECONCILIATION OF ACCOUNT FOR PERIOD 1 September to 30 September	
OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1.9.23	3515.62
TOTAL RECEIPTS/INCOME	90.00
SUB TOTAL	3605.62
LESS EXPENDITURE..	66.60
BALANCE AS AT 30 September 2023	3539.02
represented by	
Santander Bank Balance 30 September 2023	3453.02
Add cheques/cash banked but not credited as at 30 Sept 2023	86.00
<i>less cheques not presented</i>	
Reconciled Balance.	3539.02
awaiting payment/paid out	
October speaker fee Bretherton Handbell Ringers £40	
Village Hall Room Hire Oct-Dec £165	
U3A SOCIAL ACCOUNT reconciliation for period 1 September to 30 September 2023	
OPENING BALANCE 1.9.23	680.43
croquet £111.82 , Heritage £400, , Social Fund £132.31, Art Appreciation £36.30,	
income Local Heritage	120.00
sub total	800.43
Expenditure	0.00
balance as at 30 September 2023	800.43
croquet £111.82 , Heritage £520, , Social Fund £132.31, Art Appreciation £36.30,	
REPRESENTED BY BARCLAYS BANK BALANCE 30 September	800.43
<i>Less Cheques not yet presented</i>	0.00
reconciled Balance	800.43