

BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a
COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 17TH OCTOBER 2023
BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM

Present: Jane Haresign (Chair JH), Janet Foster (JF), Anne Pickersgill (AP), Rick Smok (RS), Robert Waltz (RW), Eileen McKelvey (EM), Marcus Stead (MS).

Jane welcomed Marcus, who would be Master of Ceremonies at the Christmas Social, to the meeting.

- 1. Apologies:** Diane Prettie, Marjorie Barr

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

- 3. Chair's Report:** Jane reported that she had zoomed in on the Beacon training for Chairs, which was very interesting. She had a follow up email recapping some of the items discussed which she would share with Rick.

The walking cricket season had finished, and will restart in the Spring, once she is informed by Nocton Cricket Club that the ground is ready.

Jane thanked Anne for finally getting the Charity Commission return registered, after a long, frustrating process trying to access the information that needed updating.

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Janet reported that it had been a fairly quiet month. The balance of the Main Account at the end of September was £3539.02 and that of the Social Account was £800.43. There had only been one activity, which was income from the Local Heritage Group. Janet also reported that, to date, only 37 members had returned their application form and payment for the Christmas Social. It was agreed that Jane would take application forms to the October Monthly Meeting, with a reminder at the meeting itself. Janet said we needed a minimum

of 50 to make the event viable, but she was keen for it go ahead as there had been no Social in August.

Action JH

5. Secretary's Report: Anne reported that all the documentation from the 2023 AGM had now been tied off, and she would be presenting documents for the 2024 AGM at the next Committee Meeting. Everything on the legalistic side was up to date. She said she was still sending information to the Sheepwash Times Noticeboard and other local u3a publications.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Robert reported that there were 256 members, one more than last month. He said there were 6 prospective new members, with one member planning to join at the Monthly Meeting. Two current members would be shortly moving from the area.

Robert said he would be sending out a blanket email requesting members confirm the information held for them on the database is correct or needs updating by the end of November at the latest.

Anne asked Rick to update the Convenors' notes with the information that the Honorary membership is £2, not free.

Action RS

7. Welfare Officer's Report: Anne reported, on Marjorie's behalf, that no cards had been sent to members since the last meeting. Rick said Convenors should let Marjorie know if they were aware of any members who needed a card.

8. Group Coordinator's and Website Report: Rick reported that, following Katie Baldwin's suggestion of forming a **Discussion Group**, he had emailed all members and had received 10 positive replies, so had added this group and members onto Beacon and given Katie a tutorial on Beacon. He said he was awaiting a decision on time, dates and venue.

Rick was informed there was an extra space available in the **Scrabble Group**, so he had contacted a non-member who wished to join the group and had forwarded his reply to the Convenor.

Anne had an initial meeting with interested members for the **Beginners French Group**. The group will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in the Community Library. Rick has added the group to the website and an Interest Sheet has been generated for inclusion on the Display Board. Lynda Blount has agreed to convene this group and Rick has given her instruction on Beacon and the convenor responsibilities.

A meeting of interested members for an **Advanced French Conversation Group** is yet to happen. Anne is liaising with Heath and Collingham u3a's to see how they run their groups.

The **50's & 60's Music and Dance Group** have had their first meeting, and Rick has generated a page on the website and provided an Interest Page for the notice board.

Rick reported that Sue Morris would be standing down as Convenor of the **Archaeology, Ancient and Modern Group**, but, as yet, no one had volunteered to take over.

As requested by Anne, Rick said he had put the Incident Report Form in the root of Documents. He had also displayed on the website the list of speakers, up to and including February 2024, which had been passed to him by Diane.

9. **Programme Secretary's Report:** Janet reported that she had asked Diane who she should make out the cheque to for the Bellringers, who would be performing at the October Monthly Meeting. She was unhappy that she was incorrectly advised to ask Jane, a member of the group, also that the group was a u3a group, so should not be paid. Janet has since ascertained the correct information. Janet and Marcus also commented that they were aware of people who had not been contacted by the Programme Secretary in response to offers to speak at the Monthly Meetings.
10. **Resolutions to Vote on at Third Age Trust (TAT) AGM:** Jane and Anne had studied the resolutions at the upcoming AGM and had forwarded

two to the Committee for consideration, in advance of the Committee Meeting.

Ordinary Resolution 3: Now that the u3a has in excess of 1000 u3a's, with the South East Region representing around 20% of the National figure we request that the organisational review of TAT is mandated to consider a mechanism to give greater status and input to smaller networks/clusters.

Ordinary Resolution 4: Adopt as a key strategic priority an increase in national u3a membership to at least 500,000 by the end of 2028.

After some discussion it was agreed to vote "Yes" to these resolutions, even though the chances of achieving these goals are slim. All agreed. It was agreed we have been doing all we can to generate more interest in the u3a and increase numbers.

Action JH

11. Script for Visiting Groups to Encourage Volunteers: Jane and Anne had composed an excellent script to be used to speak to individual groups, in the hope that members would be encouraged to volunteer to join the Committee, and especially to fill the roles of Treasurer, Secretary and Groups Coordinator, which would become vacant at the 2024 AGM. After discussion it was decided that the best way forward was to send out the script as it stood to all members by email, but to add a hard hitting headline, drawing attention, yet again, that the u3a would close in March if all these vacancies weren't filled. It was agreed that Jane would email it to all members separately to any other notification, so that it should receive the full attention of the recipients.

Action JH

12. Finalise Details for Monthly Meeting 24th October: There was some discussion about how the tables and chairs would be arranged to the performance of the Bellringers at the Monthly Meeting. Rick will let Bryn and John Tyerman know what is happening, as John would be making the announcements. Rick was sending the presentation slides to the Chair for acceptance, then would pass them to John ready for the presentation.

Action RS

It was agreed that Rick, John, James Hewson and possibly Marcus, would share the role of making the announcements in future.

Action These

13. Christmas Tea Dance: Marcus attended the meeting so that all aspects of the Tea Dance on 12th December could be discussed. The schedule, prizes, which dances and how many, number of carols, lay out of tables and seating were all agreed on. Marcus would provide the organ and all the music, and Rick would print out word sheets for the carol singing. Marcus said he would email Janet with any other ideas. Marcus was thanked for attending the meeting today and for volunteering to take on the role of MC, with all the preparation that would be required. He asked that it be minuted that the Singing for Pleasure choir had raised £900 for the church hall at their concert in the church earlier in the year. James will be notified so that the information can be included in the Newsletter.

Action RS

Marcus left the meeting at 3.30pm.

AOB

Janet informed us that we would need to discuss at the November Committee Meeting the membership subs for next year. Anne commented that the subs should be agreed by the membership, so they would be notified at the AGM and asked to ratify the decision.

Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 21st November 2023, Branston Sports Pavilion, 2pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record

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Janet Avesig
Date.....*21/11/23*.....