

BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a
COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2023
BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM

Present: Garry Snelson (GS, Chair), Janet Foster (JF), Anne Pickersgill (AP), Rick Smok (RS), Robert Waltz (RW), Christine Hodson (CH), Jane Haresign (JHi), Marjorie Barr (MB), Eileen McKelvey (EM).

- 1. Apologies:** James Hewson (JHe). James did arrive at 2.10pm.
- 2. Minutes for Approval:** The January Minutes were approved, having previously been sent to all Committee members for comments and amendments. All agreed.
- 3. Chair's Report:** Garry commented that the majority of what he had to report would be covered elsewhere in the agenda. He did report that he had managed to find details of another venue, Heighington Community Centre, which could be used by convenors for their meetings. He was awaiting further details, but the cost would be £29.97 per session.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Janet reported on the end of year balances. She thanked Chris, who had audited the Social Account, which showed a final balance of £808.52. The Main Account total was £3584.55, which showed a deficit of £606 on the previous year. This was to be expected as the membership fees had been kept down, but there was still a very healthy balance.
She said the accounts were with the auditor, and she had asked for them to be returned by 7/8th March.
She said that there was a need to add 2 more signatures to the bank accounts, as James would be leaving the Committee at the AGM. Anne and Rick both volunteered to be signatories. All agreed. When James arrived he agreed to remain a signatory until Anne and Rick were officially accepted. Janet said she start the process. **Action JF**
Janet asked that a request be circulated to members via the Monthly Meeting information email to bring the correct entrance and

membership fees money, if they were paying cash, to the Monthly Meeting. It caused considerable delay at the door if several people needed change.

Action GS

Garry then proposed a vote of thanks to Janet for all her hard work in producing the accounts. All agreed.

- 5. Secretary's Report: Update 2023 AGM:** Anne reported that she had sent by email, or by post to those members not on email, the following documents: Committee Nomination form and Agenda motion form. Documents for the AGM, which must be sent out at least 21 days before the date of the AGM, the AGM agenda, draft Minutes for the 2022 AGM and EGM held 25th October 2022, and the financial statements. All of these are ready for distribution with the exception of the Auditor's Report. She produced, for the Committee to view, the packs to be sent out to those members not on email. All agreed.

Janet requested that the Constitution be reviewed, as the nomination form states that the roles of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer be allocated by the Committee after the AGM, but the Constitution states they should be voted by members present at the AGM. As nothing could be done this year, as the forms had already been sent out, it was agreed, after some discussion, that the new Committee would review and update the Constitution, and Committee member roles, after the AGM. All agreed.

James suggested that a statement be made at the AGM, explaining this situation, which Garry will make.

Action GS

- 6. Membership Secretary's Report:** Robert reported that there were currently 248 members. 11 new members had joined this year, and 15 had resigned since the renewal letters were sent out. He said there had been 217 renewals so far, which meant he was still waiting for 32 members to renew. There is one lapsed member at present.

- 7. Welfare Officer's Report:** James said the only thing he had to report was that he had sent a card to a member who had been bereaved.

- 8. Group Coordinator's and Website Report:** Rick reported that Val Sargent had agreed to take over as convenor of the Art Appreciation group, and he had given her some training on Beacon.

Chris Ward had agreed to set up the equipment for the Stem group, and had been issued with the key for the equipment cupboard. Rick also said he would write to all Convenors to ascertain who held which keys.

He also reported that he had issued a laptop to Jane Haresign, as potential new Chair, and some training on the use of Beacon.

- 9. Programme Secretary's Report:** Chris reported that Sharon Hall would be speaking on Fraud Prevention at the February Monthly Meeting. All the speakers had been arranged up to June, and there were some possibilities for later in the year. No one had yet volunteered to take over the role of Programme Secretary. It could be an ex officio role, but preferably they would be on the Committee.

It was agreed, after some discussion, that we would decline the offer from Mary's Meal, to give a talk at one of the Meetings. **Action CH**

- 10. Update on Vacant Positions:** Annie Nash has agreed to take on running refreshments at the Monthly Meetings after Ann and Lucille finish in March, and Marjorie has agreed take over as Welfare Officer. There was still no volunteer to take on the role of Equipment Officer. Rick made the point that if no one fills the role there will no equipment available at Monthly Meetings, and, as one of the duties is to arrange PAT testing of all the equipment, if no one does that when the next tests are due in May, the equipment cannot be used at all.

- 11. Advertising Banner for Ukelele and Singing Group:** Garry reported that he had been researching a suitable banner, and said he recommended one which could be used both indoors and outdoors, and which cost £110. James said he would work on designs using the template provided if members could provide him with ideas.

Action JHe et al

12. Member Engagement: There had been an invitation to visit Minster Court, an over 55's retirement facility, but, after some discussion, it was decided to decline the invitation.

It was agreed to advise members of a visit to Northumberland by the FLMAG (Friends of Lincoln Museums and Art Galleries). Garry will mention it at the next Monthly Meeting and Anne will include it in the Sheepwash Times article, and the proposed newsletter on 1st March.

13. AOB: Anne suggested that we really do need a regular newsletter, and she was prepared to produce it for 6 months, then someone else could take it on. She would use copy from the Sheepwash Times articles, and include crosswords, jokes, sudoku, local activities etc and links to the local and national websites. This would be sent to members by email. All agreed it was an excellent idea and Garry thanked Anne for making the proposal. Robert remarked that this could be a good way of advertising the u3a, to encourage more new members. **Action AP**

Janet reported that she had received an email from the Village Hall, advising that everything needed to be checked when vacating the hall, as there had been some problems with taps left running and emergency doors not secured. Rick reported that he had been issued with a new hall entry fob, which he had passed to the Chair.

Jane reported that the Games Group would start on 8th March at Dunston Methodist Chapel Hall. The charge for the hall is £8ph, so she would charge members £2.50 per session. She said there would be fliers on tables at the Monthly Meeting, Rick would send an email to members and Anne would include in the newsletter. **Action JHi, RS, AP**

Jane asked about possible dates when her bell ringing group could perform at a Monthly Meeting. They charge £40 for club funds. Chris gave her some dates.

James asked Robert for some badge holders for the Railway Group members to use on their visits.

Janet said a date for the next new members coffee morning needed to be set, for all new members who had joined since the last new members meeting. Rick and Janet would select a date. **Action RS, JF**

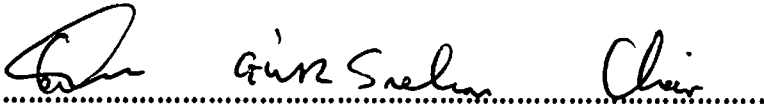
Rick reported that there had still been no progress in obtaining the certificates from the 2022 PAT tests, and he didn't see any resolution to the problem, and we would have to look elsewhere for the 2023 recertification. It was agreed that Bill Green would be asked by Garry if he had any ideas, as he is on the Village Hall committee. **Action GS**

Anne remarked that, after the AGM, there would only be 6 Committee members: Jane, Janet, Anne, Rick, Robert and Marjorie, which is the absolute minimum number. If any member left for any reason no business could be conducted, so it was essential that new members were nominated and accepted at the AGM.

Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 21st March, 2023, Moor Lane Pavilion, Branston, 2pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.30pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record

 Garry Snelson Chair

Date

21/3/23