

BRANSTON AND DISTRICT U3A
Committee Meeting 20th April 2021 at 14.00
Online by Zoom

Present. Mary Corbould (MC), Janet Foster (JF), James Hewson (JH, Minutes), Chris Hodson (CH), Brian Sentance (BS), Rick Smok (RS), Garry Snelson (GS, Chair), John Tyerman (JT)

1. Apologies Heather Sharpe

2. Minutes of the previous meeting. Minutes signed as a true record. All agreed.

3. Matters arising. JH stated that no response had been received re request for volunteers for Assistant Secretary, Equipment Officer and additional Committee Member. Agreed that the request appear again in Keeping in Touch. **ACTION: JH**

4. Chairman's Report. GS reported that he and JH had numerous Membership Application forms in their possession and proposed that they are all held together, in JH's care. **ACTION: JH, GS**

GS had received a copy of Third Age Trust's latest model constitution which made provision for online AGMs and several other items different from our constitution. After discussion, it was agreed that GS and JH would examine the details and report back. **ACTION: JH, GS**

5. Treasurer's Report JF stated that the report had been circulated previously; the bank balance looked healthy at present but the TAT capitation fee would be due soon, and Beacon license had been paid at £226.00. JH had been recompensed for mobile phone top-up and 3 month's Zoom licence. No charge for the April speaker as he is a u3a Member. One Membership fee had been received in March; another was awaited before both would be banked.

JF had enquired when the Pavilion, Village Hall and Church Hall would be available for meetings. Pavilion & Village Hall would be available from 18th May easing of restrictions, but with restricted numbers, and should be fully open from 22nd June. Church Hall availability was uncertain because of other activities. Prices would probably remain as before.

JF suggested that the committee meetings would be held in her garden in May and June. Convenors to make their own arrangements with the venue administrators. Venue hirers would be required to abide by Covid regulations.

In general discussion, it was agreed that we needed to be flexible with arrangements because of uncertainties of the number of Members willing to attend meetings and whether easing of restrictions would happen as planned. The possibility of recording meetings for streaming meetings via Zoom for those unable/unwilling to attend in person was suggested.

Village Hall to be booked for 22nd June Monthly Meeting. **ACTION:JF**

Discussion on the possibility of changing the time of Committee Meetings took place, which resulted in agreeing to meet between July and October inclusive on 3rd

Tuesday evenings at 19.00 and then revert to afternoons from November to March.

It was agreed that we hold a Monthly Meeting in August. **ACTION: CH**

5. Membership Secretary. MC reported that she had received one expression of interest in membership and had sent relevant paperwork, but heard nothing back yet. Discussion over one Member who has not renewed membership, and JT had suggested that she become a Honorary Member. JH reminded the meeting that we already had a Honorary Membership class for members of other u3as who attend only one Group Monthly Meetings, but we charge a small fee to cover administration costs. The Member in question had been accepted without cost because of her history of service within the u3a. Similar consideration could be given to other long-serving Members in future. **ACTION: All committee members**

6. Groups Coordinator RS stated that Pam Scoffin, the Convenor of 33's Music Group had not renewed membership. RS had contacted all members of the Group, with only 3 replies, none of whom were willing to act as Convenor. Therefore the 33s Music Group would be closed and the Group members would be informed. The Group held a small amount of money, to be transferred to the Social Fund in case of a re-start. **ACTION: RS, JF**

MC was to stand down as Convenor of the Cycling Group. RS to contact members of the group to seek a Convenor or declare the Group to be closed. **ACTION: RS**
RS was in contact with interested parties re PAT testing of equipment in conjunction with the Village Hall and Pavilion. The call-out fee to be shared with those. All electrical equipment to be collected by RS in time for May 18th testing. Chair's laptop was then to be transferred to JH and the general use laptop to be returned to the Pavilion. Treasurer's laptop to be returned to JF after testing. All items of equipment to be tested to determine that they work before restarting meetings by RS & JH.

ACTION: RS, JH

No Convenors had been in contact with RS as to post-restriction plans. Convenors to be responsible for contacting the venues. RS to liaise with Convenors. **ACTION: RS**

7. Programme Secretary CH reported that speakers had been booked for April and May. There would be no speaker for June as we were planning a social event. She would book for July onwards, hopefully using speakers who had been booked for 2020. **Action: CH**

It should be possible to use a Zoom connection in the VH if necessary. Discussion on a December meeting took place. This would be on December 7th, but no decision was made as to what format it would take.

It was decided that the 22nd June meeting would be a social occasional event with free entry. Members might be asked for contributions of cakes, etc. To be fully discussed at May's CM. **Action: CH**

8. Web Site Manager. JH to upload draft AGM minutes to the website. He and RS have continued to update the website. There were still odd problems with Beacon, especially with emails. JH had submitted an article for Sheepwash Times and Limespring Hundred **ACTION: JH, RS**

9. "Keeping in Touch" JH was beginning to wind down the KiT newsletter. He had received just 3 responses to his request for a final "lockdown journal" edition. After discussion it was agreed to reducing publication to fortnightly and then monthly, with a transition to the original format. Forthcoming edition to include details of opening up events. **ACTION: JH, JT**

10 Neighbourhood Meeting. Had been attended by JT, GS and CH. Regional Representative was present. She was surprised by how well we had continued to offer activities and communication with members, and how few members had failed to renew membership. The u3a Day was still proposed for 2nd June, but we felt it to be inappropriate at that stage, and its purpose was uncertain. Next meeting to be held on 6th July at Navenby Venue. In discussion it was suggested that we might incorporate a bring-a-friend type social in the August meeting.

11 AOB. There being no other business, the meeting closed at 15.30

Dates of next Meetings

Next General Meeting: 27 April 2021, Speaker: Tim Young on Agricultural Revolutions (by Zoom)

Next Committee Meeting: 18 May 2021, 20 Veronica Close (garden)

Signed as a true record

Date

To Do:

Details of June and August Monthly Meetings

Further arrangements for re-opening of Group meetings

Possible amendments to constitution

Membership Classes