

**BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024**  
**BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM**

**Present:** Jane Haresign (Chair JH), Janet Foster (JF), Rick Smok (RS), Robert Waltz (RW), Katie Baldwin (KB), Marjorie Barr (MB), Eileen McKelvey (EM), Bryn Jenkins, Equipment Officer (BJ).

- 1. Apologies:** Anne Pickersgill (AP), Nick Dawes (ND).
  
- 2. Minutes for Approval and Matters Arising:** The January Minutes were approved, having previously been sent to all Committee members for comments and amendments. All agreed. A copy was signed by Jane, for inclusion on the website. No matters arising.
  
- 3. Chair's Report:** Jane reported that it had been a very quiet month, and those items she wanted to report on were included in the agenda for discussion.
  
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Janet reported that the Main Account at 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 had a reconciled balance of £3204.04, and the year end accounts showed a deficit of £380.51. The deficit was as a result of having to purchase a new projector, at a cost of £478.80.

She added that the Main Account was now with the auditor, James Kelsey, and she had asked him to complete them by 8<sup>th</sup> March at the latest. The Social Account had been checked and signed off by Chris Hodson.

Janet will provide a full report to the membership at the AGM.

- 5. Secretary's Report:** In Anne's absence, Katie provided the details of Anne's report. She had had a busy month, amongst other things, making preparations for the AGM, discussing plans for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, and speaking to the organisers of the Gilbert and Sullivan fest at Buxton. She had also sent details of the January and February

general meetings to the local publications. Her other comments will be included under relevant agenda items.

- 6. Membership Secretary's Report:** Robert reported that the current membership stands at 255. There had been 6 new members since the last meeting and 10 resignations. There are 7 prospective new members. To date, 22 members had yet to renew their membership. First reminders had already gone out, and final reminders, if required, will go around 14th March. Any non renewers will be deleted from Beacon on 31<sup>st</sup> March. All those who had renewed had been sent acknowledgement emails. Robert thanked Janet for keeping him up to date with details of all those who had renewed by cheque or BACS.
  
- 7. Welfare Officer's Report:** Marjorie reported that she had sent cards to 2 members with health issues, and Anne had delivered flowers to Eileen, who was recovering from surgery, as thanks from the Committee. Marjorie was aware of other members with health issues and she would contact them to check on their progress.
  
- 8. Group Coordinator's and Website Report:** Rick reported that there was concern amongst members of the Cycling Group that they had not been contacted by the Convenor since May 2023 about any outings. Some members had asked to be removed from the group. Rick said the last correspondence on Beacon was dated 6<sup>th</sup> June, re electric bikes. After some discussion it was agreed that Rick would write to the Group Convenor to see if he was going to continue in the role. **Action RS**

Rick has been informed by the SiteWorks team that we are number 228 on the roll out of the new website powered by WordPress. Before we can proceed we need to electronically sign the T&C's by logging into the u3a Portal. An executive member would need to do this, as we are agreeing to an annual fee of £50 (incl VAT). Jane offered to do this.

**Action JH**

Rick reported that Anne had received some photographs from Jo Randerson for inclusion on the website to celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Anne pointed out that we needed the permission of anyone featured in

the photos before they could be published. It was agreed that Jo would be contacted to ask permission from those concerned. **Action ??**

**9. Programme Secretary's Report:** Jane reported that the speaker Bernard Bale, was confirmed for the February Monthly Meeting. Jane said she would meet and greet him if Nick Dawes wasn't available. The only equipment the speaker would require would be a microphone.

**10. Name Badges, Meet and Greet:** It had been suggested by some members that name badges should be made available to everyone, not just to new members. Until a few years ago every member was provided with a name badge, which was updated annually. Members were asked if they wanted this to continue after the then Committee decided it was a waste of time and money, as very few members wore them. In spite of a yes vote, very few wore them, so they were then discontinued. The Committee decided there was no reason to think the outcome would be any different if they were reintroduced for the membership as a whole. The members who raised the point have been contacted accordingly.

If volunteers for Meet and Greet can be found it was suggested that this should be actioned asap.

**11. Not Notifying Attendance at Group Meetings:** Some members had expressed concern about the problems caused if apologies were not sent in advance of group meetings. It was agreed, after discussion, that it was for each Group Convenor to decide for their own group how to deal with this situation, eg whether to delete members from the group after 3 non apologies, or ask for payment, where relevant, in advance to cover costs. Jane will reply to the members who raised the point. **Action JH**

**12. Outing to Buxton (viability):** Jane reported that, to date, 25 members were definite for the theatre, 3 were possible for the theatre, and 6 were definite for coach only. A 53 seater coach would cost £600, which would make the fare, on current figures, £18pp. So far the numbers would only qualify for a 10% discount on the theatre price. It had been agreed at a previous Committee Meeting that there would be no subsidy offered. Sue Morris had offered to possibly organise a walk or a croquet match

for those who didn't want to go to the theatre. It was agreed that an initial deposit of £18 would be required at time of booking, and the payment for theatre tickets by the end of April. Payment should be by cheque, payable to Branston & District Social A/C, but cheques would not be banked until the final price, dependent on numbers, was ascertained. A gratuity for the driver would be at each member's discretion, payable on the day. As Jane is unable to attend Robert will lead. Jane will email members with this information, and she will send names of those participating to Rick.

**Action JH**

**13. Alternative Ideas for August? Incorporating Item 14, 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:**

It was decided we should have an event in August to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Branston u3a, to be held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, the usual date of the Monthly Meeting. After the success of the afternoon tea at Christmas one option is an afternoon tea, with, possibly, a walk or a walking cricket match. Jane will check availability for the afternoon tea, but we will need a back up plan for entertainment if the weather is wet.

**Action JH**

**14. Tables at Monthly Meetings:** Tables were introduced at Monthly Meetings after Covid to encourage people to sit down. They also make it easier for members to enjoy their tea/coffee before the meeting starts. The question had been asked if they were still required, and it was decided that John Tyerman should put the question to the membership at the next Monthly meeting.

**15. New Members' Coffee Morning:** It was decided that the next meeting should be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April at the Sports Pavilion. Janet will check with the Parish Council that the room is available, and Robert will invite the new members.

**Action JF, RW.**

**16. Annual Parish Council Meeting:** Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March, Branston Church Hall, 7.30pm, Jane will attend to represent the u3a. Anne had ascertained the attendance at previous meetings, and felt it was worthwhile that the u3a was present.

**17. AOB:** Anne reported that the Mah Jong group has requested a grant to buy a new set. Janet suggested that attempts should be made to acquire one second hand, or by donation, or could members each contribute towards a new one. Then, if unsuccessful, a grant could be considered. Another consideration would be what would happen to the set if the group folded, depending on how it had been funded.

Bryn wanted to know, if the speaker was bringing her own equipment to give her talk on US Presidents at the AGM, did we still need to put ours up. Rick responded that ours would need to be put up for the presentation at the AGM, which would then have to be removed before we could allow her to set up.

He also informed us that he had contacted the Parish Council Booking Clerk about problems with the lock on the pavilion door. He said he was told it would be impossible to change the lock, as there were too many keys to be replaced.

He also asked if it was ok to dispose of the old projector, which he was storing at home. This was agreed as it had no value on the Asset Register.

Finally, Bryn wanted to commend James Hewson on the monthly Keeping in Touch (KIT). He said he was impressed by the content.

**Pavilion Keys:** Rick reported that he had received two keys for the Pavilion, and one for the cabinet. These would be distributed to the new AA&M Convenor and the Mah Jong #1 group. **Action RS**

**Branston u3a Mobile Phone:** Rick suggested that we abandon the mobile phone held by the u3a, as we do not quote the number on the website and we no longer advertise in the local free papers. It had been unused for a long time and was no longer active. All agreed. **Action RS**

**Beacon:** Rick has been approached by Heath u3a, requesting assistance in adopting Beacon as their management system. He has agreed to do this, and is awaiting confirmation of a time and venue. Janet has offered to accompany him. **Action RS, JF.**

**Village Hall PA:** Rick has been informed by Bryn that he has tested the Village Hall PA system, and all is working well.

**TAM (Third Age Matters) Returns:** Rick has been informed that a solution has been found for the distribution issues faced earlier this year. Something will be in place for the April edition, and more details would be shared shortly.

**Christmas Event:** Eileen reported that a member had offered to approach Bomber Command, Lincoln, to ascertain availability and prices to use their venue for the Christmas Lunch on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December. The Committee was happy that the details should be passed to them for consideration. Eileen will ask the member to provide the information.

**Action EM.**

Eileen also asked that, following a request from a member, and from personal experience, that members be requested at the Monthly Meetings to desist from talking while questions are being asked, and responded to, and that a roving mike be used so that everyone can hear the questions.

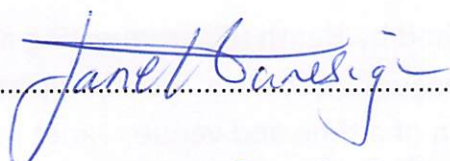
**Action ??**

Janet suggested that Blokes that Sing, and/or a local saxophonist, could be approached to provide entertainment at the Christmas event.

**Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024, Branston Sports Pavilion, 2pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.40pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record.

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Date.....  
19-03-2024

<b>TREASURERS REPORT March 2024</b>	
<b>RECONCILIATION OF ACCOUNT FOR PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024</b>	
OPENING BALANCE AS AT 1.2.24	3204.04
TOTAL RECEIPTS/INCOME	3062.00
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>6266.04</b>
LESS EXPENDITURE..	127.90
<b>BALANCE AS AT 29 FEBRUARY</b>	<b>6138.14</b>
represented by	
Santander Bank Balance 29 FEBRUARY	6184.14
Add cheques/cash banked but not credited as at 29.2.24	154.00
less cheques not presented £50 & £150	200.00
<b>Reconciled Balance.</b>	<b>6138.14</b>
<b>awaiting payment/paid out</b>	
Speaker fee March meeting £45	
<b>U3A SOCIAL ACCOUNT reconciliation for period 1 FEBRUARY TO 29 FEBRUARY 2024</b>	
<b>OPENING BALANCE 1.2.24</b>	<b>729.06</b>
croquet £51.82 , Heritage £520, , Social Fund £120.94, Art Appreciation £36.30, Income.	0.00
<b>sub total</b>	<b>729.06</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	0.00
<b>balance as at 29 FEBRUARY</b>	<b>729.06</b>
croquet £51.82 , Heritage £520, , Social Fund £120.94, Art Appreciation £36.30,	
<b>REPRESENTED BY BARCLAYS BANK BALANCE 29 FEBRUARY</b>	<b>729.06</b>
Less Cheques not yet presented	0.00
<b>reconciled Balance</b>	<b>729.06</b>
5.3.24 £275 Deposited by Sue Morris re Croquet Group	