

BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a
COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 19TH MARCH 2024
BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM

Present: Jane Haresign (Chair JH), Janet Foster (JF), Anne Pickersgill (AP), Rick Smok (RS), Robert Waltz (RW), Marjorie Barr (MB), Nick Dawes (ND), Eileen McKelvey (EM).

- 1. Apologies:** Katie Baldwin (KB)
- 2. Minutes for Approval, and Matters Arising:** The February Minutes were approved, having previously been sent to all Committee members for comments and amendments. A copy was signed by Jane, for inclusion on the website. No matters arising.
- 3. Chair's Report:** Jane thanked Nick for his first "meet and greet" in his role as Programme Secretary. The speaker at the AGM is Zoe Gibson, talking about American Presidents. Jane has confirmed her attendance and Bryn has contacted her about her tech requirements. She also reported that Marcus and Lynn were very happy with the email about notifying absence from their group.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Janet reported that the reconciled balance of the Main Account at 29th February was £6138.14. She was still waiting for two cheques to be presented. There had been no activity in the Social Account, so the balance remained at £729.06.

Janet also reported that the signed Accounts were back from the Auditor, and there had been no problems. The Auditor had received his agreed payment of two bottles of wine.
- 5. Secretary's Report:** Anne reported that she had been busy training Katie in her forthcoming role of Secretary, and she had also had a session with Nick. The rest of her report would be covered in the AGM item on the agenda.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Robert reported that the total membership stood at 258, an increase of 3 since the February meeting. There had been 6 new members since the last meeting, and 10 resignations since the Membership reminders were sent. To date, 11 members were yet to renew their membership. All who had renewed had been sent acknowledgement emails.

Robert also reported that he had sent invitations to the New Members' Meeting on Friday 19th April, 1.30-4.30pm. Rick said he would email the Group Convenors, inviting them to attend.

Action RS

7. Welfare Secretary's Report: Marjorie reported that she had sent a card to a member who had suffered a bereavement, and another to a member in hospital. She was advised at the meeting that another member was also in hospital.

8. Group Coordinator's and Website Report: Rick reported that he had sent a letter to the Convenor of the Cycling Group, outlining complaints from group members, and asking him to voluntarily step down if he did not wish to lead the group. He said he had received a lengthy reply from him on 2nd March, requesting that he and his partner be removed from the group, which Rick had now done. Rick said we now need someone to volunteer as Group Convenor, or else the group would have to be closed down. Robert and Nick, who are members of the group, were considering whether to take on the role.

SiteWorks Update: Rick reported that he and his deputy, James Hewson, had been invited to a Zoom conference, prior to being given access to the new website, as the Chair had now signed the T & C's. This was held on 12th March, and they have received their training package to work through. As soon as the workbook has been completed they can request a Migration Team Member to assist them in the migration to the new SiteWorks website. This will probably be around September. We will be charged £50pa, and, unfortunately, our QR code will no longer work, so all publicity material will have to be amended.

Beacon Training: Rick has now completed Beacon training for Nick, as the new Programme Secretary, and he has signed the Access to Personal Data Agreement. Nick also has permission to access the address book of the members, so that he can advise of Monthly Meetings, speakers etc.

Unserviceable Projector: Following an approach from the Equipment Manager, it was agreed that he could dispose of the old unserviceable projector, as, according to the Asset Register, it has no value.

9. Programme Secretary's Report: Nick reported that he had been inducted by Katie. He has been approached by various potential speakers for the Monthly Meetings, and has told them that he will get back to them, probably around June/July, as the speaker diary is full for this year. He has, however, been canvassing for event speakers. Nick asked advice on the fees he would be able to agree, and it was decided that £80 was a good ballpark figure, and Nick should request authority if it was more than that.

10. Christmas at Bomber Command: Following a member's offer to approach Bomber Command re the possibility of holding our Christmas event there on Tuesday 10th December, he did report back to the Committee. Rick and Janet then went there themselves, to discuss in detail what would be available. They reported that 72 guests could be catered for, with a formal sit down 2 course meal being agreed on. They have a pay bar and we could arrange for entertainment. The cost would be £30pp, to include their booking fee and car parking. Robert also went to Pottergate Golf Club. They would provide a carvery, with dessert, coffee and crackers, for a cost of £28pp. The main disadvantage would be that we would be seated in 2 separate rooms, which would not be ideal if we had entertainment. Dhillon's Plaice was also approached about a Fish 'n' Chips option. They would be happy to cater it again, and the cost would be £15pp, to include a dessert, tea and coffee, and crackers, and a free raffle. It was agreed to disregard the Pottergate option and canvass the membership on which of the other 2 options they would prefer. Jane will send an email with all the details, requesting an early reply, so that a booking can be confirmed. **Action JH**

11. August Social: The August Social, on Tuesday 27th August, will be a celebration of the 20th anniversary of the founding of Branston u3a. It was decided that cake and prosecco would be offered, which could be funded by the u3a, and there would be a speaker. There was some discussion about the theme on the day, possibly a Walking Cricket match against another u3a, or games, including Bridge and Chess. Janet will check availability with the Village Hall, and will source the cake and prosecco nearer the time.

Action JF

12. Cycling Group: Already covered at Item 8.

13. Buxton Update: Jane reported that 30 members wanted to go to the theatre, and 6 just wanted to book the coach. The coach and theatre were all booked. She said if we could get the figure to 40, the cost of the coach could be reduced to £15pp. Sue Morris is organising a croquet match, to be played against Buxton. Jane will send her updated list to Rick for Beacon, and Robert will download the emergency contact details of those going.

Action JH, RS, RW

14. Neighbourhood Meeting: Janet and Rick attended the meeting and reported that Alan Walmsley, a Vice Chair of the National u3a, was an excellent speaker, and very knowledgeable. The next meeting is scheduled for 6th September, but there is some doubt about this as it should be held quarterly. It was thought that Branston would host the next meeting, but there is also some doubt about that. Janet has queried this and is awaiting clarification.

15. Mahjong 1: The group had requested a grant for the purchase of a 148 tile Mahjong set, at a cost of £76.99, which they had already purchased. They also wanted the pushers and cloths. Anne had managed to acquire a 144 tile set, free of charge, but this was deemed unsuitable. It was agreed by all, after some discussion, that the grant would be authorised, but that the group should do more to promote itself to encourage more members. The new set would be the property of the u3a and should be kept in a locked cupboard at the Pavilion. The free set, acquired by Anne, would be given to the Games Group. Anne will communicate the decision to the group, give the Group Convenor the keys, and hand them

the cheque, which was written by Janet during the meeting.

Action AP

- 16. Annual Parish Council Meeting:** Jane confirmed that she would be attending on Monday 25th March in the Church Hall. She will take the u3a banner, leaflets and membership forms.

Action JH

- 17. New Members' Coffee Afternoon:** As already minuted at Item 6, Membership Secretary's Report, the meeting will be held on Friday 19th April. Robert will invite any new members.

Action RW

- 18. AGM:** Anne listed in detail the preparations required in the run up to the Annual General meeting, and the procedure on the day. She reported there were no Members' Motions, and the only proposals for the Committee were Katie and Nick. All relevant AGM documents had been sent out, and apologies were coming in. Janet asked that Robert highlight in red anyone who had not renewed their membership, as they would be ineligible to vote. Janet and Eileen will provide details of the number attending, so that it can be ascertained whether or not the meeting is quorate. The members could vote to continue, even if this is not the case.

Action RW, JF, EM

Refreshments will be served after the AGM, but before the speaker, to give her time to set up. Janet will inform Annie Nash of the change of routine.

Action JF

AOB: Rick reported that, after the problem with the Third Age Matters (TAM) returns, when the company handling them went bust, another company had been found by Third Age Trust (TAT), so we are now up to date.

Nick will send a reminder email to the membership about the AGM and details of the speaker.

**Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 16th April 2024,
Branston Sports Pavilion, 2pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 4pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record.

.....*Jane Harsanyi*.....

Date.....*16/4/2024*.....

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