

Minutes of Burton u3a Committee meeting - Monday 27th June 2022

The Priory Centre, Stretton at 10am

- 1) Present Mike Payne (Chairman) Basil Armett (Treasurer) Rosemary Marsden (secretary) Bimal Jangra (Publicity & Newsletter) Janet Heckle (Interest Groups) Mary Corbett (Membership & Events) Neil Davenport, Chrys Smedley (Beacon)
 - 2) Apologies Rose Hunt / Gill Jangra / Ros Stretton/ Christine Davenport
 - 3) Minutes of previous meeting were approved subject to amendments to read Rosemary Marsden (Business Secretary elect) Rose Hunt (Asst. Sec elect)
 - 4) No matters arising
 - 5) **Statement from chairman** Mike Payne stated that his philosophy was that the committee were in post for one purpose which was for the benefit of Burton u3a members and if there was no need to change things then don't! (Unless for the better) Burton on Trent u3a obviously has to abide by any new Legal / administrative or national changes that may occur.
- 6) Secretary Report**
- a) Thanks to all volunteers was sent out from National HQ
 - b) Permission was asked to circulate all committee details to everyone as there are new members of the committee - this was agreed
 - c) Passwords - previously there had been an agreement that the secretary & treasurer should hold these in sealed envelopes should something untoward happen. The secretary queried what had happened regarding this. It also appeared that the new chairman is unable to access the generic email as the previous holder cannot remember the password! It was agreed the treasurer should check in the envelopes he currently has for chairman's password. Everyone else should provide two sealed envelopes containing their passwords at the next meeting was agreed.

7) Treasurers Report

A specific group's income/expenditure spread sheet had been circulated prior to the meeting showing current income higher than the expenditure. A few groups have adjusted their rates as they have large membership or no venue charges; it was clarified that all groups should aim to be self funding. It was also clarified that money in excess of rent charges was ring fenced for individual groups should there be insufficient members to meet rent costs or for other reason.

- a) **Newsletter.** A hard copy newsletter currently costs approx. £4.00 per year and has always been included in the membership fee - £1.62 per quarter made up of 68p postage, 5p envelope, 89p to print. This will need reviewing when the new membership fees are considered for 2023/24 year as it has already been agreed for the current year. It may also be that more are required – 92 were posted out recently and 100 are ordered this does not leave much spare capacity for taking to coffee mornings or new / prospective members.
- b) **Request for "jack" (equipment)** received from bowls group under the Equality Act in that it is making a reasonable adjustment to accommodate a member who has particular needs. Maximum cost £57.00. Unanimously agreed

8) Vacant Committee roles Vice Chair / Events Secretary

Mary Corbett proposed Neil Davenport for Vice Chair, and this was seconded by Basil Armett. It was agreed unanimously
Events Secretary - it was proposed that new members of the committee might be informally approached which Rosemary agreed to do.

9) Membership Report

To date we have 664 members which include 55 new members since 1st April, 3 of whom have joined in the last few days. Renewals are now slow, but enquiries are still being made at the coffee mornings which are still very well attended and very much better than previous venue.

10) Beacon. Nothing to report

11) Events Secretary's Report

The AGM was attended by 56 members and was followed by the Talk and Tea with Chris Austin who entertained with memories and music of the Shadows. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all. There was some concern that a few people could not hear very well. The speaker had preferred not to use the microphone available. Everyone thought that all speakers should use the microphone in future and that they should be aware on confirming the booking that this would be a requirement.

- a) **Tea & Talk 1st September** booked. Graham Short with talk / demonstration on carving and etching in miniature i.e., on items such as a needle, razor blade etc. Cost £100
- b) **Christmas Party Pirelli stadium** booked for 1st December at cost of £250 inc food max number of people 150. Possible Travelling Wrinklies who play 60s/70s music -£200 or Mystery Entertainment who do tabletop magic approx. £150. Much discussion about both format and entertainment took place e.g., a complete change and have professional entertainment as oppose to the usual u3a groups showcasing their "talents" which has been the format for many years.

All members of committee were in favour of change after the three-year Covid restrictions however whether to provide a subsidy or not proved a difficult decision. Eventually Mary Corbett proposed a charge of £10 per person plus u3a subsidy of £3.83 - it was unanimously felt this was the way forward and to review after the event. It was also proposed and seconded by Janet Heckle & Basil Armett that the Travelling Wrinklies be booked as if we prevaricate, we might not get anything. All agreed unanimously. Although the overall cost is more, the subsidy per person is less than previously. Food will be discussed at the October meeting. It was also agreed to run a raffle to help defray costs. Tickets will be available at the tea & talk in September and coffee mornings after that on a first come first served basis.

12) Interest Groups Report

- a. **Reciprocal members** Now have 15 members who are current and form their own group on Beacon. Coordinators are very pleased they can now be added to their group list.
- b. **Groups** Poetry and Reading Shakespeare have been disbanded due to lack of interest. Philosophy is re-starting in July, hopefully moving venue to Priory centre. Bridge is moving to the Beacon. Cake decoration and Discussion are having a summer break. German are back face to face meetings, starting in September. Advanced French has also started meeting face to face In discussions with new coordinators for Gardening and Photography 4. Fire station has now reopened to groups but currently none of our groups use the venue – possibly due to quite strict requirements pre booking. The year's quarterly records have been checked for visitors etc. 29 people have visited. 1 has now become a member
1 could not be traced (no surname) Only 1 visited more than twice
- c. **PAT testing** Janet took on coordinating this last year as a number of jobs needed to be re allocated due to illness, but she does not wish to continue to do this. All the information is recorded in group file, e.g., what equipment needs testing etc. for each specific group. The person who previously has done the testing is also not willing to continue due to changes / increased costs. Mike Payne agreed he will arrange the next testing session.
- d. **Coordinators meeting** is now due and planned for Monday 19th September 10 – 12 at Priory Centre. Rose Hunt to be asked to take minutes as Rosemary not available. Janet will draw up an agenda (see item 15)

13) Communications Report some issues regarding people replying to the communications secretary rather than the email address on the information. Also group only information going to whole membership. It is appropriate that the communications secretary makes a decision on some of these matters not all the membership need to know a group has cancelled/ changed venue etc. Beacon training has been offered to the coordinators concerned by Interest Groups Secretary who was commended by the chair for doing so.

14) ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. **u3a /The Joy App** Rosemary explained this is to do with social wellbeing and would raise the profile of u3a. Not an app in sense of an app but can be found on www the active. joyapp Still awaiting further info from one of the organizers. Anyone being directed to u3a by GPs/social prescribers etc. will need to follow same rules for joining as everyone else.
- b. **Resignation** Mike Payne announced Gill Jangra has resigned as minutes secretary. She was thanked for stepping in and her work has been very much appreciated
- c. **Welfare officer** a role held by previous chair. Mike happy to continue with this but needs to be notified of anything appropriate – probably by coordinators (*add this as item for coordinators meeting*)
- d. **Zoom officer** no longer appropriate so role discontinued
- e. **Future meetings** 1st Tuesdays October / December / February / April (*Rose Hunt to confirm/ book with Priory Centre*) June is AGM
- f. Next committee meeting Tuesday 2nd August (*Rose Hunt to confirm/ book with Priory Centre*)

as there was no other business the meeting closed at 12.27