

Minutes of Burton u3a Committee meeting - Monday 4th October 2022

The Priory Centre, Stretton at 10am

Present Mike Payne (Chairman) Neil Davenport (Vice Chair) Basil Armett (Treasurer)
Rosemary Marsden (secretary) Bimal Jangra (Publicity & Newsletter) Janet Heckle (Interest Groups)
Mary Corbett (Membership & Events) Chrys Smedley (Beacon) Christine Davenport (Communications)

Apologies Rose Hunt

Minutes of previous meeting were approved

No matters arising

CHAIR REPORT

He has attended all the coffee mornings and chatted with members old and new, overall, an uneventful period. He has endeavoured to sort out the chairman's email address, it appears that the addresses chairbotu3a and chair.botu3a already exist so he is arranging for an alternative, details will be circulated when finalized. In future passwords to be held securely by Treasurer & Secretary – please action this if not already done so. He has seen details of the agenda for the u3a AGM but have not yet had the opportunity to look through all the items."

SECRETARY REPORT

Death of committee member Ros Stretton was noted at the end of September. Please remove her from all contacts.

Also received details of the agenda for the u3a AGM

Explanation of Network Link was given

TREASURERS REPORT attached to these minutes

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

14 new members since August most of which have come from the coffee mornings. Total membership is now 702 which is getting back to pre-Covid numbers

EVENTS REPORT

54 members attended Talk and Tea on 1st September feedback was that it was an interesting and amusing afternoon, there were some issues regarding speaker not wanting to wear a microphone. This must be made clear on future bookings that it is a prerequisite.

Issues of both catering and general set up were discussed – it was agreed to send out a request via communications for more help in this direction.

Christmas Party tickets are selling extremely well. To date (26th September) only 8 left – 4 of which have been kept for people who are sending the money by post once all gone there be a waiting list in case of any returns.

Feedback has been positive; people are looking forward to having something different. Meeting with Pirelli in October to discuss final arrangements in October

INTEREST GROUPS

Planned coordinators' meeting was cancelled due to funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth; new date suggested Tuesday 29th November 10am at The Priory Centre, Stretton at 10am. Janet will confirm this

Coordinators (free thankyou) lunch - Proposed date Wednesday 1st March 2023 Janet will confirm this. Discussion took place around whether committee members who are not group coordinators should be offered a free thankyou lunch.

Venue costs..... Both Stretton Church Hall and Brook House have increased their charges.

1 new reciprocal member from Uttoxeter has been added to register.

The coordinator asked that it be minuted that Basil Armett be thanked for the recent social events calendar and the trip to Sandringham

Groups

French 4	Has a new coordinator and re-started on Sept. 26 th . They are now having meetings with a u3a group in France.
German	Started face to face on Sept. 7 th
Cake decorating	Re-starting on Oct. 10 th
Line dancing	Visited by Janet and all now fine with computer /lapsed member
Spanish	Julie handing over Spanish at end of Sept, hopefully to another member if not this group may close.
Photo 4	Has 2 new coordinators and is re-starting in Nov.
Philosophy	Graham has re-started his group on Sept. 20 th at the Fire station. He has booked for next 3 months

BEACON REPORT

The usual activities undertaken, unblocking of emails, issuing passwords to new group co-ordinators.

Beacon have begun offering training courses to various members of the committee, membership secretary, groups co-ordinator, treasurer, site admin. Limited delegates to 15 via zoom on various dates, the take-up was over whelming. Going forward further training dates will be offered.

Chrys pointed out an interesting article on GDPR in latest edition of Beacon news which was sent separately

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

General queries have been dealt with as they have arisen. Queries directed to other people have been forwarded. Members continue to reply to communications even where an email address to reply to is given in the original mail sent out.

Two requests from third parties to advertise their events via Burton u3a communications have been politely refused.

It was also agreed that no advertising for outside groups should be sent.

PUBLICITY / NEWSLETTER

As above requests for advertising for outside groups should be refused

Bimal asked if everyone had noted the new banner, he also pointed out costs for last newsletter were cheaper!

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- ***Future finance arrangements***

The chair stated his concern that when future finances were proposed at the AGM the proposal was almost overwhelmingly rejected. His concern for the future is that we have adequate reserves for emergencies as well as day to day running costs, he also pointed out that should u3a Burton on Trent close we would be expected to pay the next capitation fee. He also reminded committee that u3a ~National want to tie the capitation fee in line with the old age pension. Currently our bank account is extremely healthy, but this is money doing nothing. In future it would be hoped to have it in an account paying reasonable interest. He stated he could not find anything either relating to how much we should hold or indeed if we had a written policy. He also said he wanted written

arguments to justify what we as a u3a are doing e.g., group fees - currently they are very mixed AND we need a logical reason why membership should be increased. He felt the best way forward would be for himself, treasurer, and secretary to meet and draw up something that could be brought to committee for further discussion, so everything was noticeably clear.

- ***Photocopying music / amateur choir license***

Burton u3a Singing for Pleasure do photocopy music especially if it is out of copyright (over 70 years old) but it was brought to the attention of the committee by a member who has contacts with other choirs that they also do copy other music. Since 2021 it has become very restrictive and photocopying is now illegal without an Amateur Choir Licence. Nationally u3a does not offer a licence it is for individual groups to decide how to access music. After discussion it was felt that the Singing for Pleasure group should be told that and that in order for Burton u3a to operate legally each member would be required to buy their own music (this is in line with other groups supplying their own equipment e.g. art / craft etc) Janet /Rosemary will draw up some information to be agreed by Chair who will then take this to the singing group conductor / coordinator. Bimal Jangra advised that there are other areas to access music – including the Musicians Union and he would be happy to pass on details.

- ***Equipment request from Folk Group.***

The treasurer has had a request for a PA system at cost of £376.20 for the Folk group who meet at The Priory Centre. There are other older PA systems owned by Burton u3a some of which are difficult to use / do not have enough speakers /heavy to transport etc. but this system would, as with all equipment be available to other groups, but be kept at The Priory Centre. It will be maintained by Bimal Jangra It was proposed by Mike Payne Seconded Janet Heckle

- ***Showcase event spring / summer*** at Priory Centre /St Mary's Church Hall

Rosemary suggested we should start looking at a date now for 2023 and she will contact Carol at Priory Centre

- ***Committee Roles***

it was noted that a change had been made to a committee role by a coordinator without the agreement of the full u3a committee this said to be incorrect procedure

The groups coordinator reminded everyone that she will be handing over her role next June and she voiced her concerns about someone to take over, she said that with all roles there really should be people on the committee ready to step in.

Committee roles to be an item for discussion on next agenda

as there was no other business the meeting closed at 12.00

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2022

The Priory Centre, Stretton 10am