

CALDICOT AND DISTRICT U3A

Minutes of Committee Meeting No.10 (2020/2021)

Date: - January – March 2021

Venues: Home emails

Time:

Present:

Robert Harry	Chairman
Linda Stewart	Vice Chairman
Tony Hodson–Hirst	Treasurer
Angela Hodson-Hirst	Newsletter/Direct Mail/Membership Secretary
Pam Caines	Committee Member
Glenice Dallow	Gift Aid Coordinator/Group Coordinator
Elaine Yeomans	Committee and Network Secretary
Betty Waite	Link Secretary
Helen Wormald	Committee Member
Linda Howells	Committee Member

1.10.2021 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26th November 2020

Minutes read

2.10.2020 CORRESPONDENCE

None to date

3.10.2020 TREASURERS REPORT

Report in lieu of committee meeting March 2021

ACTION

March Balance Sheet

The February balance sheet was distributed to the committee attached to the relevant monthly report and this month's figures have, similarly, been attached to the following brief resume. The only income this month was in the form of two outstanding subscriptions and an interest payment (£20.08) Expenditure was the ongoing cost of the Newsletter and Welfare cards and postage. There is, consequently, a residual balance of £8770.53 that, when compared with this year's opening balance of £8367.07, indicating that we have held our own through this, our first year of covid.

Annual Report 2019-2020 – All Groups

As previously reported the combined all groups report for 2019-2020 was presented to the membership, having been approved in the January ballot, and was then forwarded to the Charity Commission who acknowledged receipt. Our submission was a little later than the statutory requirement, however we had applied for, and been granted, an extension in the present circumstances. You will have received a copy of that report and noted that our turnover was slightly down on the previous year. We maintained however a healthy balance carried forward into 2020-2021. Details have been published on the CC website and available to the public online upon enquiry. I will now, with your permission, embark on the process of collecting the group treasurer's reports to this month end (March 31st) the close of our financial year.

Subscriptions

Subscriptions have now been received from the Membership Secretary to the value of £3,698.00 which is £711.50 down on the previous year's total. Subscriptions received relating to the new financial year are being held by the membership secretary pending further instructions from the committee. I will point out that my own advice was to go ahead with the collection that is already sanctioned and appears to be the most practical course without sending mixed messages to the membership. However I bow to the majority if such be the case.

Bank Signatories

No change from last month. The Table Tennis mandate signature additions are still outstanding. There are presently only two signatories to this account. In light of the recent changes within the committee there will need to be further quite substantial changes in the long run and I can only suggest that, with the committee's approval, the existing signatories remain in place until we can make other arrangements or the system will prove unworkable in the short term.

Ongoing Costs

Additional costs associated with the production of the newsletter, in its new form and size in colour, are quite substantial. A rough analysis shows that it more than exceeds the savings generated by not holding any monthly meetings. However, when the further savings occasioned by having no speaker's costs are added into the equation, together with savings generated by our holding no committee or conveners meetings in the council daycentre being also taken into account, the balance is maintained and sustainable on our current subscription rates. Should meetings resume and the newsletter continue to be produced in its current expanded form then the committee will need to review the situation.

Expenses

All expenses received to date have been paid within the year end accounts.

Third Age Trust Membership Costs

It has been indicated that TAT will be holding the annual membership fees at the current rate of £3.50 per member based on actual numbers of full members at the financial year end and payable in April. The committee have been requested to consider their position on this. Next year we are already advised that this fee will be increased to £4.00 per member. From the various responses I have received I believe that the consensus is that we should pay these charges but I suggest that we await the outcome of the next committee meeting, real or virtual whereupon this action can be approved and minutes indicate as such. I understand that the question of whether we continue to pay for the direct mailing of the TAM is under consideration and I will similarly await written instructions on this also.

Should any committee member need further detail in respect of any of the above or have any other queries that I am able to answer please let me know and I will be happy to respond.

Kind regards

Tony Hodson-Hirst
Treasurer

4.10.21 25th CELEBRATIONS

Caldicot & District u3a Ideas Initiative; January 2021 Theme. 25th Celebrations.

Q.1 Caldicot and District u3a 25th Anniversary Celebration and National u3a Day will be merged and take place on 2nd June 2021 at The Cornfield Project in Portskewett.

Q 2. We will order the Commemorative Bench and Planters from Second Life Products Wales in this financial year.

Q3 . We will contact and liaise with the Cornfield Project Committee

members to organise the storage and installation of the Bench and planters plus any other initiatives linked to the Community Gardening Group or other u3a groups. Q 4. We will order a Commemorative Cake from Wendy Powell .

Q 5. That the final decisions regarding the size and scope of the day will be defined by the relative Covid restrictions at the time. However, at the very least we will have a picnic and refreshments, brought by the members themselves and a ceremony that officially endorses the Bench, planters and any other u3a investments in the Cornfield project.

Q6 The 25th and u3a day Celebrations will play a significant part in our future. To that end it will be on the agendas for discussion of other Ideas Initiative Themes. Eg Meeting with Convenors, any Newsletter and Website initiatives and the relative 25th Celebration, Interest Groups and PR Sub-Committees.

Q7. The 25th Celebration

Sub-Committee will take principal responsibility for future development of Ideas in this theme but will receive assistance from the Committee and all relevant information from Convenors or other Sub- Committee groups. That should include members of the original 25th Celebration Subcommittee if they wish to participate.

There was general agreement that information on u3a Day available in the National Newsletter.

appears to be useful in planning for this initiative.

5.10.2021 MEETINGS WITH CONVENORS

Committee Ideas Initiative. Theme 2.

A Summary of the Ideas presented by Committee Members.

1. That most of the Committee supported the idea of meetings with Convenors and other representatives of Interest Groups in the near future.

2. That if possible, such meetings should be arranged in terms of the Venue/location that groups would normally use prior to lockdown.

3. That if possible, meetings would be virtual and utilise Zoom or other virtual apps that are available. If Convenors et al are unable to be consulted by virtual methods, they will be offered alternative options.

4. An overwhelming majority agreed that meetings should be low key and focus upon supporting Convenors and any projects that they are involved in or planning with their groups.

5. To facilitate such meetings RH in conjunction with other Subcommittee will develop a series of Questions to aid discussion. This will be circulated to the Committee for agreement.

6. A part of the Meeting will focus upon future initiatives such as the 25th Celebrations and possible links to the Website and Newsletter.

7. These initial meetings will be precursors to future meetings that will discuss relevant issues such as Membership and possibly the re-starting of Groups in Venues or the Walking Groups.

8. In considering virtual Meetings we will try to use free apps or utilise other groups apps. However if necessary we may need to

consider buying an appropriate licence on behalf of the whole u3a. Again, that will require that we seek the agreement of the committee.

6.10.21 **WEBSITE**

- a) Ideas that we further develop on the Links page and other pages to facilitate themes and other initiatives.
- b) That convenors are contacted to update Groups pictures within the groups pages.
- c) That any themes on the front page of the website can be changed regularly or as required.
- c) That Ann works with Jim Fenton and liaises with Glenice and Linda on the future development of the Website.
- d) That we leave it to Ann to continue the good work on the Website.

7.10.21 **NEWSLETTER**

- 1) That we do not change anything in the Newsletter and that any Committee approaches to convenors could be counterproductive.
- 3) That the Newsletter Editor assumes full editorial control and should be allowed to decide what goes on the front sheet and what is on each page within the remit of what is received each month.
- 4) That the development of a book club can be explored, to identify if it has support from members.
- 5) The option of recipe corner is a possibility that could be taken forward in the Newsletter

All the above Committee Members have taken part in the discussions, ideas and Initiatives, these were proposed and seconded by a Committee Member and passed with a Majority vote with some Committee Members having reserved their right to abstain.

8.10.2021 **NEXT MEETING** To be confirmed

