

CALDICOT AND DISTRICT

Website: u3asites.org.uk/caldicot

Charity Number: 1071447

MINUTES of U3A CALDICOT COMMITTEE MEETING 18th January 2024 at 10.00pm CALDICOT RUGBY CLUB

1. Welcome by Linda Stewart- Chairperson

Present Rob Harry, Linda Stewart, Joy Ganesh, Lyn Howells, Cindy McOwen, Maurice Turner, Glenice Dallow, John Calvin Thomas.

Apologies Jan Potter,

2. Minutes of Last Meeting

Accepted as a true record of meeting 23rd November 2023

3. Matters arising- None

4. Treasurers Report- Rob Harry.

Current account stands at £3031.55 and business account at £3094. Accounts are healthy but because we hold monies for handicraft and art groups within and a donation of £250 for history we could probably deduct another £100 from current account. We will also owe Methodist church around £500 for hall hire by various groups by the end of the financial year. We will certainly be in credit there is uncertainty of exact figure.

We need to look at and question how much money we wish to have in reserves as we probably have too much currently. Should Caldicot U3A fold this would be forfeited. As a charity one way forward would be to keep our fees for the coming year 24/25 as this year. We have to have money in reserves and can do this as our current account is healthy. The committee were in agreement that the next years fees remain as the current year.

5. Beacon It was agreed that following the demonstration and discussion following the finance groups meeting with Dereck Shotton, Chepstow that the group felt in favour of adopting the Beacon system. Above all it is seen as a good strategy for the future continuity of Caldicot U3A both in membership and finance. There will be a few anomalies when switching but it was felt to be minor issues. Training is available. Within the coming year 24/25 we will take a steady approach to full implementation !. Explore local training

2. When the participants are comfortable with the systems implementation sign license/application forms.

3, Transfer Caldicot U3A data to Excel template Beacon

4. Check data and make site live

6 Group News- Glenice Dallow

Glenice apologised for not managing to visit the groups as she has in the past. This was due to her ongoing illness. Committee members volunteered to help cover the groups Glenice/ Committee members have not visited recently. There is a new treasurer for Computer group- Wendy Powell.

7. Membership report January 2024- Joy Ganesh

At the moment membership stands at 379. Membership Secretary said that now money is not being taken as in February next years membership will begin to be collected and under the 2 free sessions before membership payment that takes them through January. One problem is some members do not commit to any particular group. This makes it difficult to track where payment has been made. At the convenors meeting Glenice will ask convenors to check. An updated membership form is available which can be emailed to new members but basically this will only be a date alteration. Could convenors also help with notifying chair of special birthdays/ anniversaries.? If we adopt Beacon Honorary Members will also disappear-this group becomes a problem because insurance is dependent on a member payment.

8. Facebook- John Calvin Thomas

This remains popular with over a third of members accessing Facebook and putting photos etc on it. There is not the same amount putting items on the website or providing articles for the news letter. Linda asked if photos could be sent to Ann. John asked if that request could go to convenors meeting.

Convenors are to check if details are correct on website.

9. Coffee Morning- Cindy and Lyn

Linda said this would be designated as a group as some members only go to this. Cindy said these would resume in February.

10. AOB a. At last meeting committee were informed that Handicraft group have £500 to donate to a defibrillator for Caldicot. This had generated lots of discussion and there was much concern over maintenance. Linda has contacted the Council about this but the response has not been as hoped with maintenance being an issue and it is therefore felt that handicraft rethink the donation with it going to another project.

b. Glenice said she has been contacted by gardening group with regards to the Cornfield project. Currently U3A have a small plot in the cornfield surrounded by trees donated by U3A, Pauline(Gardening joint convenor) is finding it increasingly difficult to keep the plot viable as volunteers are not forthcoming. It is asked that the committee approach the Cornfield Project Committee with the view to saying that keeping the plot is no longer viable for U3A.The Cornfield Project AGM will be held on 24th January 2024 at. Portskewett & Sudbrook Recreation Hall at 1730hrs (5:30pm).

Date of next meeting 15th February 2024

