

**MINUTES OF CHEPSTOW U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY ZOOM
TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2021**

Present: Nicky, Shelagh, Pat, Ruth, Irene, Sandra, Anne, Wilf, Alison, Pam, Hugh.

Apologies: Marion

Minutes of previous meeting: Accepted.

Matters arising: None

Covid - Hugh

The current position was outlined with organised outdoor activities restarting from 26th April with up to 30 people and indoor activities from 3rd May with up to 15 people. Organised activities in private gardens and private houses remain prohibited. From 17th May, the situation is not certain but we expect indoor activities can have up to 30 participants in Wales (indoor exercise activities only in England); and from 21st June, organised indoor sedentary activities can restart in England. There is no detail on when/whether the situation will change regarding face coverings, social distancing and meeting in gardens or private houses.

The New Normal page on the website has been simplified.

TAT have updated their advice, although it does not fully reflect government advice.

Convener Liaison – Anne & Wilf

Contact with groups indicate that whilst some groups expect to stay using Zoom, perhaps until September, some groups are planning outdoor or indoor meetings. Unfortunately it looks likely that the French for Improvement and Art on Tuesday groups may cease due to inability to find people to run the groups.

The Methodist Church Hall is expected to re-open on 10th May and the Tai Chi group is planning to restart in the Palmer Centre in June.

The departure of the Wanderers walking group leaves a gap in length/difficulty between the Easy Walkers and Strollers.

Future Monthly Meetings - Hybrid

It is planned to hold the July committee meeting in the Drill Hall in July, followed by a trial of a hybrid Tuesday Live meeting. In the absence of detailed technical discussions with the Drill Hall, it looks feasible to achieve a hybrid meeting, except for feeding an audio signal from the hall audience to Zoom participants.

There is a pathfinder hybrid meeting training event on 13th May, which Shelagh will attend. A recording will be made available.

Tuesday Live – Marion

Bookings are in place through to August, apart from the third Tuesdays in July and August. From September, speakers for the first Tuesday will normally be at the Drill Hall, with Zoom speakers for the third Tuesday.

Positive comments have been received from members about the Tuesday Live events.

Membership – Irene & Sandra

During April, nine new members joined, ten members resigned and one sadly died. As at 30th April, membership on Beacon was 902. This compares with 950 in 2020. 62 members renewed in April. There are 114 outstanding renewals compared with 94 in 2020. An email will be sent to conveners asking them to encourage their group members to renew. **Action:** Irene.

Marketing – Nicky

It is proposed to establish a new website to replace the current 'Sitebuilder' website. A subcommittee comprising Alison, Anne Tyson and Derek Shottin has been set up to develop proposals.

The stall at the Chepstow Sunday Market was very popular. Committee members were asked to volunteer for the next market, particularly for setting up and dismantling. **Action:** All.

Beacon - Alison

Pending a new website, the existing website will need updating to reflect the changing group activities as Covid restrictions are relaxed. A problem with the Site Map not updating automatically is being investigated.

Due to a dispute between TAT and the software developer, Beacon 2 is delayed indefinitely. The current Beacon system will receive more support to fix various glitches. Ian Wood has stepped back from front-line duties on Beacon and Alison will now be the first point of contact. The conveners will be informed.

Action: Alison.

Secretary - Hugh

Nothing to report.

Treasurer – Pat

The anomaly with the presentation of previous year account values in Beacon has been investigated. It is not possible to change last year's numbers, so the comparison will be undertaken manually.

The COIF accounts have been closed and it was agreed that the sums should be allocated to 'Reserves' in both the Group and Main accounts. **Action:** Pat.

Network

Chepstow (Nicky and Anne Tyson) will be hosting a seminar on the use of Facebook for network members.

Nicky will liaise with Alison regarding joining the Beacon peer group. **Action:** Nicky.

Chairman - Shelagh & Nicky

It is proposed to move the Open Day from 2nd to 3rd October, to coincide with the Sunday Market and take advantage of the large number of market attendees. **Action:** Nicky. It is recognised that some groups may not restart in time to be able to exhibit at the Open Day, but a later date will probably encounter worse weather.

Chepstow Town Council is preparing a Place Plan that will inform and shape the future development of the town. Chepstow u3a have been invited to a focus group meeting on 25th May. **Action:** Shelagh.

The timing of future events was reviewed. It was agreed to defer the August wine tasting to November and the ceilidh and whist drive to spring 2022.

Transition Chepstow are seeking a new treasurer and have asked for suggestions. Whilst this is outside the remit of u3a, a verbal request to members was considered acceptable.

Next meeting: Tuesday 1st June 2021 at 10:00 am by Zoom