

**MINUTES OF CHEPSTOW U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY ZOOM
TUESDAY 6TH OCTOBER 2020**

Present: Derek, Pat, Marion, Shelagh, Sue, Irene, Nicky, Wilf, Anne, Hugh.

Apologies: Chris

Minutes of previous meetings: Accepted.

Matters arising: None

PROJECTS & ISSUES:

Restarting Groups

The restart team had met three times and have contacted all groups. There were zoom meetings with conveners and the walking groups, who expressed appreciation for the actions that the committee are taking.

It was agreed that the risk assessment approval process was working well and should continue. In-line dancing, ballroom dancing, table tennis, badminton and flower arranging groups are restarting or planning to restart.

The Methodist Church hall is now accepting U3A bookings but Sedbury village hall is not opening at present and Chepstow Leisure Centre and the Tourist Information Centre are not opening for U3A groups yet. There are eight venues that we have good information on, four from whom information is still sought, and there are two potential new venues that are being investigated for suitability.

Monmouthshire County Council have queried Chepstow U3A's 'charitable services' exemption from some coronavirus restrictions. Following discussion, they stated that they were not saying that we were doing anything wrong, but wanted to discuss the exemption with other councils to ensure consistency of approach.

Social

Nothing to report

Beacon

Beacon 2 implementation is now scheduled for March 2021.

Bounced emails are still occurring with Beacon and affected members are being advised to raise the matter with their email provider or use a different email provider.

Chepstow Volunteers Network Meetings

Nothing to report.

Volunteering

Nothing to report.

Data Storage

Nothing to report.

ChatLine

The list is being kept up-to-date and phone calls continue. It was agreed that it would be a good idea to reinvigorate the arrangements as winter approaches. **Action:** Irene.

REPORTS:

Chairman – Derek

At the TAT AGM, the launch of U3A Radio was announced. The votes on subscriptions resulted in a decision to raise them to £4 from April 2022, as voted for by Chepstow U3A. There were concerns expressed about the ability of some U3As to pay the TAT subscriptions. There was a good presentation on re-branding. Copies are not available but it can be viewed at the end of the AGM recording, slide 117 onwards.

A member has volunteered to manage the Facebook page. **Action:** Nicky to liaise.

Secretary - Hugh

Correspondence – A letter has been received from Amazon Smile, offering to collect donations via on-line shopping. It was agreed that we should remain essentially self-funding and not solicit donations.

Zoom - 210 meetings have been held on the U3A Zoom account with a further 46 booked. After some discussion, it was agreed that a second Zoom subscription should be procured to ease the problem of conflicting requests from groups. **Action:** Hugh - completed.

2021 Diaries – As it will not be possible for members to buy 2021 diaries direct from TAT or at monthly meetings, it was agreed that members should be emailed to find out who wanted them. They will then be procured from TAT and sold to members at a price inclusive of postage. **Action:** Hugh.

Treasurer – Pat

The bequest from Eric Lucas has been received.

The request for a U3A credit card is still being processed. In the meantime, the conveners of AwayDays and Theatre Trips will be asked if they would be willing to use a credit card for ticket purchases etc. to secure protection if there is a problem with the suppliers.

It was agreed that, during the current coronavirus situation, Chepstow U3A cannot guarantee refunds if trip participants decide to cancel for any reason and reimbursement is not available from the supplier. Members should be made aware of this at the time of booking. The policy on trips will be updated to reflect this. **Action:** Derek – completed.

There will be review of the budget and planned subscription increase at the November committee meeting.

Convener Liaison – Anne & Wilf

Whilst some groups are planning to restart face-to-face meetings, others are holding off for now. Groups will be encouraged to make use of the vacant slots in the Zoom calendar.

Programme – Marion

Tuesday Live bookings at twice per month will be made through to summer 2021, on the assumption that face-to-face meetings will not be practicable before then. However, speakers are being asked if they would present in person if required. There is currently a gap for 17th November and options are being pursued. It was agreed that the 15th December Tuesday Live should have a Christmas theme with musical items. Possible contributors will be approached. **Action:** Derek – completed.

It was agreed to investigate an e-Christmas card incorporating a calendar of events. **Action:** Marion.

There is no news on when the Drill Hall may take U3A bookings, but it is unlikely to be before 2021. Gilwern U3A has held a hybrid AGM and may have advice on how to do this. **Action:** Derek.

Membership – Irene & Sue

As at 30th September, membership on Beacon was 917, 3 higher than 2019. During September, one new member joined and two sadly died.

It was noted that conveners might not be aware which of their group members are subject to local lockdowns. It was agreed that conveners should be advised to consult the membership team, who can check this. **Action:** Irene – completed.

Marketing – Nicky

As part of the drive to arrest falling membership, TAT has developed a new logo. It was agreed to adopt a Chepstow-specific version with a new strapline 'Live Life to the Full' in both Welsh and English. This will be put on the website and circulated to conveners. **Action:** Hugh – completed.

Nicky has participated in the Pathfinder TAT focus group, looking at how to prevent U3A's losing members. The Chepstow website and actions were quoted as exemplars of how to adapt to the current circumstances. The Pathfinder proposals will be circulated to committee members for their reactions. **Action:** Nicky.

Network – Derek

The next network meeting will be held on 7th October, when the Chair of TAT, Ian McCannah, will give a short talk and take questions. Committee members were invited to attend.

Next meeting: Tuesday 3rd November 2020 at 10:00 am by Zoom