

**MINUTES OF CHEPSTOW U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD BY ZOOM
TUESDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2020**

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

Apologies: None

Minutes of previous meetings: Accepted.

Matters arising: None

PROJECTS & ISSUES:

Restarting Groups

The English lockdown ends on 2nd December with Gloucestershire in tier 2 and Bristol, South Gloucestershire and North Somerset in tier 3. The travel ban between England and Wales remains in place but may be changed on 4th December. Guidance will be provided to conveners when the situation is clear.

Action: Hugh - completed. In the meantime, the New Normal web page is being kept up-to-date and we will continue to promote the use of Zoom.

Social

The February quiz is in preparation and will be publicised after Christmas. New dates will be proposed for the ceilidh and open day **Action:** Nicky – completed.

Beacon

Beacon 2 implementation is progressing.

Chepstow Volunteers Network Meetings

Nothing to report.

Volunteering

MCC have set up a Chepstow Community Network. Nicky attends the evening meetings of one group and Shelagh will attend the daytime meetings of the other group.

Data Storage

Nicky will put the archive information on a USB stick and post it to Hugh. **Action:** Nicky.

ChatLine

The list is being kept up-to-date and phone calls continue.

Eric Lucas Tree

Shelagh has been in contact with the council regarding the choice of tree and possible locations. As bare root trees should be planted before February, it may be better to wait until autumn 2021 in order to ensure appropriate arrangements can be made.

Shared Learning Projects

A number of projects have been undertaken involving multiple U3As and external agencies working together to produce something of value. They are seen as a good way of utilising people with different skills and interests and engaging with the local community and agencies.

REPORTS:

Chairman – Derek

There is a need to identify potential candidates for committee roles from March 2021 and inform Derek.

Action: All.

A link to the TAT podcast has been put on the 'Ideas to occupy your time' page of the website. It was felt that the podcasts do not project a dynamic image of U3A.

Secretary - Hugh

Correspondence – various emails from TAT have been received and circulated. Also circulated was a GAVO email regarding a Q&A session on 25th November. TAT were advised of an error in their Coronavirus advice but no corrective action was taken.

AGM – In view of the current situation and the likelihood that it will not be possible to hold a physical meeting within the required timescale, it was agreed that a virtual AGM should be held on 2nd March 2021. In order to allow members who do not use Zoom to vote, an information pack will be sent out in advance and members will be allowed to vote by post, email or text, or in person at the Zoom meeting. Whilst it is not expected that more than 100 will want to join a Zoom meeting, the possibility of combining the two U3A subscriptions to allow up to 200 participants will be investigated. **Action:** Hugh. It is expected that the 2020 accounts will be available for inclusion in the information pack. Detailed arrangements will be agreed at the January meeting.

TAT EGM – It was agreed that we should support the motion to enable virtual meetings. Derek will be nominated as voting delegate. **Action:** Hugh – completed.

Accident report – the report was received and will be held on record for 3 years. The recommendation for individual cycling groups to carry an adequate first aid kit was endorsed. The report form was considered to be unduly difficult to use and will be revised. **Action:** Hugh – completed.

Sight Loss Awareness – It was considered that this could be a suitable topic for a Tuesday Live talk. **Action:** Marion.

Treasurer – Pat

Annual returns have been requested from group treasurers. The new group treasurer advice will be sent out. **Action:** Pat.

The U3A credit cards have been received. The U3A diaries have all been paid for.

Marketing – Nicky

The Pathfinder group continues to meet and has produced a range of materials, some of which may be useful for Chepstow. Links to the Zoom videos have been put on the Conveners page. The Chepstow website has been cited as an exemplar.

The majority of new Chepstow members are from word-of-mouth recommendations by existing members. Facebook has been identified as a good recruitment tool and ways of utilising this will be discussed. **Action:** Nicky. The possibility of using targeted advertising on Facebook was discussed and whilst it was considered to be promising, care needs to be exercised to avoid the possibility of overwhelming some groups.

Convener Liaison – Anne & Wilf

Philosophy 2, Latin, Spanish Conversation and Creative Writing groups have started using Zoom and three new groups are starting: Bridge for beginners, Opera and Discussion. The Psychology group are looking for a suitable venue to restart face-to-face meetings. The convener for Table Tennis 2 has resigned, with no replacement at this time.

Programme – Marion

Fool's Gold are performing at today's Tuesday Live. For the Christmas Party, Big Bad Woof have recorded two sessions which will be used at the beginning and end. There will be a short quiz, followed by a break when Christmas songs may be played for members to sing along to before the quiz answers are announced and prizes awarded.

Photography and bats are the topics for the January Tuesday Live sessions. With the AGM on 2nd March, there will be no Tuesday Live on that day. More sessions will be booked through to April/May with the option of transferring the first Tuesday sessions being transferred to the Drill Hall when it reopens.

It was agreed to use a commercial provider to send an e-card to members. However, subsequent to the meeting it was decided that it was impractical to obtain consent from members to provide their email addresses to the e-card supplier, so an in-house card will be used.

Membership – Irene & Sue

During November, one new member joined and two resigned due to leaving the country. As at 30th November, membership on Beacon was 916. This compares with 949 in November 2019.

Network – Derek

Derek has coordinated a list of recommended speakers for the South Wales Network. The next meeting will be held on 13th January.

Next meeting: Tuesday 5th January 2021 at 10:00 am by Zoom