



**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held by Video Conference
on Monday 15th February 2021 at 2:00pm.**

Present:

Ben John	Chair	Frank Hogan	Vice Chair
Margaret Whaley(MW)	Business Secretary	Joyce Carrington	Communication
Gary Nye	Treasurer	Liz Flanagan	Social secretary
Mal Waite (Mal)	Groups Coordination	Stuart Murray	Groups Secretary
Andrew Cross	IT & Beacon	Jeff Howard	Membership Secretary
Sue Foy	Speaker secretary	Alison Betts	Minutes Secretary

1. Apologies for absence:

2 Minutes of meeting (20th January 2021)

Minor factual errors were pointed out & noted for correction. The rest of the minutes of the meeting were reviewed & approved. The errors will be corrected by AB & the minutes passed back to BJ to be initialed.

3. Matters arising:

a. Disability Access sub committee.

Prior to the meeting FH had distributed a document setting out the terms of reference & progress to date of this sub-committee. The contents were discussed. Particular points raised were that the constraints of lockdown have made access to talks & groups easier for hearing & visually impaired members who have an understanding of and access to the appropriate technology. However, Powerpoint as a presentation tool is not accessible to any screen reader software. When meetings at venues return consideration by groups & speakers needs to be given to how this access can continue. JC pointed out that there were u3a disability guidance notes available. JC to forward to FH.

FH
JC

b. Sub committee to raise profile of Chester u3a.

Prior to the meeting BJ had distributed a document setting out possible ways to attract new members & further actions to be undertaken. FH & SF pointed out that existing groups needed to be aware & made available for new entrants both in lockdown & after. If necessary new groups would need support to be established if capacity or experience levels, such as for language groups, required it.

BJ
JH

c. Possible workshop on video/audio editing.

Item postponed until later in meeting. See item 11.

d. Report on on-line lectures.

MW had distributed sources of virtual lectures prior to the meeting. MW to pass some information on virtual trips/tours to JC for inclusion in the newsheet.

MW
JC

e. Report on advent calendar

SF had sent notes regarding her findings at the time. SF felt the calendar was of its time within the context of lockdown & no conclusions regarding any future action could be made now.

f. Chester community law project

SF expressed some reservations from experience. She felt that whilst closer links with Chester University are desirable and talks on appropriate topics from a student group where the content has been fact checked by the supervising lecturer would be welcome

BJ

there should not be any opportunity for members to be given false or misleading information or advice. BJ will contact the university to clarify the u3a position.

g. Chester waste management consultation.

BJ

Christine Robinson had contacted the committee to facilitate a discussion with members. This was passed to Jenny Carley.

5. Chairman's Report.

The committee expressed their sadness at the death of Brian Holyoak. Brian had been a very active member who made a quiet but very big contribution in many areas. He was always a cheerful & willing volunteer helping out where ever needed, for example with setting out the hall for meetings & many other tasks. He will be much missed.

Jenny Carley reported that 21 members had attended the Thursday meeting quiz. Jenny felt BJ that there should be zoom coffee mornings for members. The committee expressed the view that the Thursday meeting should still provide interesting talks from members & others with a different emphasis from the Tuesday talks. SF pointed out that any u3a talks must be careful not to infringe copyright as another u3a was facing costs relating to use of YouTube images. BJ to feed back to Jenny Carley & David Stork.

6. Social Secretary report

LF reported on the situation regarding the 2020 Scottish holiday postponed to May 2021. Of the 50 members signed up half still wish to go & half feel too anxious to want to travel. LF is waiting on the company concerned to state whether they are cancelling the holiday in which case the member's £30 deposits will be returned. This will depend on Scottish regulations & the viability of the holiday.

7. Treasurer's Report.

GN provided a detailed report available in OneDrive prior to the meeting. GN stated there have been very few transactions recently. The report has a predicted annual surplus of approximately £760 but under current circumstances this can only be a speculative figure. A fourth Zoom Pro license has been purchased for Thursday meetings.

8. Membership Secretary report.

JH reported that there are 907 current members. It was agreed that contact should be made LF with Cestrian u3a, which is currently inactive, to allow their members to benefit from our BJ on-line activity during lockdown. LF to obtain contact details for the current chair person, BJ to contact.

9. Communication Secretary report.

JC reported that she is currently printing & posting out 5 copies of the news sheet each JC month. JC had circulated ideas received from Rosie Archer to improve the news sheet. Mal These were very welcome & will be discussed by a sub committee of JC, SF, Mal, & Rosie SF Archer. This group will provide a framework to take forward.

10. Beacon & Website report.

AC provided a report available in OneDrive prior to the meeting of the current website & beacon activity. AC also gave a brief report on the situation within the Deeside & Wirral Network.

11. Groups Co-ordinator report.

SM stated that there was not much new activity to report. The possible Latin group has not had much interest from members. Exmouth u3a has started offering short courses some of which are available anytime & open to other u3a members. Epsom & Ewell are using some Future Learn courses. The view was expressed that there needs to be planning for how the u3a will operate post lockdown to incorporate the experience gained & enhance the offering to all members especially those who have welcomed the opportunity for on-line access. From item 3c, SM stated that there should be a video/audio editing group established to

help support Chester's future technological needs. SF stated that appropriate equipment would be needed & should be purchased by Chester u3a. SF to approach some members with the relevant skills to ask for their involvement. SM to put something into the news sheet. SF SM

12. Speaker Secretary report.

SF had put a document in OneDrive prior to the meeting showing brief summaries for talks she is sent unsolicited by people wanting to speak (for a fee) at our meetings. This was discussed. The view was expressed that the emphasis on more challenging & academic talks currently being given at the Tuesday monthly meeting were being very well received & appreciated by the members. SF JH GN

Professor Garfield Southall now retired from Chester University has offered a talk for free on his experience as a 70 year old participating in the "Montane Spine Race", a UK ultra running event. SF asked permission to offer free Chester u3a membership as a thank you. All agreed.

13. Collaborative u3a project/book

This was a suggestion by Dave Atkinson to SF. SF expressed the view that groups could contribute if they wished & potentially Dave could ask for some involvement from the Network however it was not necessary for the committee to be involved.

14. Treasure Hunt.

SF & JH are developing an approximately 3 mile walk in central Chester to incorporate interesting facts relating to places which will be identified by matching to a given photo. This walk is planned to be available to members for Easter time. Possibly if successful it could be repeated quarterly. JC & FH volunteered to test the treasure hunt when it was ready. SF JH JC FH

15. AOB

a. u3a Day 2nd June 2021.

SF expressed the view that June 3rd would most likely be too soon for many of our members to wish to participate in any face to face events. She suggested we should be focusing our planning on virtual options. It was suggested that there should be a special edition of the news sheet which could be distributed beyond the membership to raise awareness of our past activities & any planned for the future.

b. Repurpose of a redundant laptop

Mal requested permission to acquire an out of date laptop currently held by AC in order to clean it & pass it on to a school child in need. All agreed. AC MAL

c Identity Card

FH stated that he was aware of a member who needed proof of identity that could be used if no passport or driving license were available. FH had found a card that is widely recognised & suggested adding the information on how to obtain it to the news sheet. FH

d Scheduling of next committee meeting.

FH to review the committee members' preferences in order to establish a best fit. All

20. Close

Meeting closed at 16:20pm

The next meeting ----2 pm on Monday 15th March 2021