

Minutes of on-line (Zoom) committee meeting held on Monday 1st February 2021

PRESENT:

Tony Henry Chair; Pam Campbell Business secretary ; Lesley Patterson Treasurer; Averil Fendley Membership secretary; Ian Webb Website coordinator; John Rutherford Group Convenor Co-ordinator;

- **Apologies**
Pete Burrow Social activities secretary
- **Minutes of last meeting**
Accepted as a true record.
- **Matters Arising**

Subsequent to the last meeting Lesley had re-checked on her time in post as Treasurer and found that The Constitution states that Officers of the Committee (Chair, Vice chair, Secretary and Treasurer) should stand for 3 years (not 5 as she had thought), and that the Treasurer may stand for re-election at the end of 3 years. In view of this she was happy to continue in the role for the foreseeable future.

Ian has now confirmed that he does have someone who is willing to take on the role of website co-ordinator. This is Gerry Hoye, and Ian will start mentoring him on requirements and technicalities of the website over the next few months with a view to his official election onto the committee at the AGM in April.

- **Monthly Meetings and Speakers**

Following the successful first monthly meeting on Zoom in January, with 42 attendees Tony outlined the future plans:

- Feb 15th – Hugh Pennington, Covid Virus

It was suggested that members could be encouraged to send in questions for Dr Pennington prior to his talk, as this may help him see the sort of issues that the audience are interested in.

- 15th March - Des Herron, Sailing from Cape Town to South America
Des has some concerns as to the sound quality with Zoom (as he will be connecting from Cape Town). Tony and Pam have arranged a trial run with Zoom on 3rd February. If this is unsuccessful there is another speaker (a magician) who is on standby.

- 19th April AGM.
It was felt that the AGM was likely to be fairly short as Covid has restricted all activities in 2020-21. In view of this extra speakers could be asked to give a short presentation. Karenza Storey had agreed to read her poem that received a prize in the U3A King Lear competition, and other possibilities were Katie Scott, and Davy McCracken -a contact from Virginia Armstrong who apparently gives very entertaining excerpts in Northumbrian dialect
- 17th May A presentation from the Words and Pictures group, led by Bernard Harvey
- 21st June A talk on the advances/treatment of Stroke (TBC) *Dr James Scott*
- 19th July ??a garden party at the Three Wheat Heads (TBC) *3-5 ??*.

Further ahead there was a list of speakers who had been provisionally booked for 2020 (but not used because of Covid) who could be contacted.

Ian suggested following the lead of other U3As and inviting non-members to attend monthly meetings via Zoom, as this may boost membership for the future. One such person had already been added to Pam's list of attendees for February. All agreed this was a good idea.

Actions:

- Pam to request and co-ordinate questions from members for Hugh Pennington prior to his talk on 15th Feb
- Tony and Pam to conduct trial Zoom with contact Des Herron regarding feasibility of using Zoom from Cape Town.
- Tony to contact Katie Scott / Davy McCracken re providing short entertainment excerpt at AGM session in April
- Pam to keep a list of non-members who request to attend monthly Zoom meetings
- Ian to advertise meetings as open to non-members on website

- **Group Activities**

There was no further progress with any group activities, and outdoor activities remained suspended in line with Covid restrictions.

The network group meeting had asked if any groups were willing to open their Zoom meetings to other U3As

Actions:

- John to liaise with those group convenors who are running Zoom meetings to see if they would be interested in opening their groups to other U3As

- **Treasurer's Report**

Lesley stated that the current balance (in main account) remains at £2800. It was explained that capitation fees from the National U3A for 2021/22 have now been confirmed as £3.50/member. This is a reduced fee in lieu of reduced activities, and will be payable for current membership numbers. Discussion took place regarding the most accurate way of capturing our membership numbers as no annual fees were collected in 2020-21 due to Covid suspension of activities.

The list of (paid) members from 2019-20 is 170.

The on-line survey conducted in October/November had asked how many members intended to re-join but this had only received 18 positive responses. However, as more people than this were attending monthly Zoom meetings this seemed artificially low.

It was suggested that only members who have participated in U3A activities (groups meeting via Zoom, Quiz participants and monthly meeting Zoom attendees) this year should be classed as active members.

Membership fees for 2021-22 were discussed as these need to be determined prior to the AGM. It was agreed that these should be reduced to £5 to reflect the reduced activities this year. The practicalities of obtaining fees were also discussed; although it was felt that members may pay by BACS transfer it was known that many members would not be prepared to do this, so cheques may be another option.

Actions:

- Pam to draw up a list of active members i.e. those who had participated in Zoom quiz/monthly meetings
- John to obtain list of members participating in group Zoom meetings so these could be merged into the list of active members

- **Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

Monday 1st March at 5pm via Zoom