

## Minutes of committee meeting held via Zoom at 6.00pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022

### PRESENT:

Tony Henry, Chair; Pam Campbell, Business secretary ; Lesley Patterson, Treasurer; Averil Fendley, Membership secretary; John Rutherford, Group Convenor Co-ordinator; Pete Burrow, Social Secretary

#### • Apologies

None. All committee present.

#### • Minutes of last meeting

Accepted as a true record.

#### • Matters Arising

- Inventory of possessions now completed
- List of speakers for monthly meetings has been emailed to members
- Membership numbers remain buoyant with some new members. Members who had not paid their fees for 2021-22 have now been informed that they have been removed from the circulation list.
- Only one member has expressed interest in attending a Bridge group

#### • Covid and Monthly Meetings & Group Activities

Discussion took place regarding recent communication with the Photography group who were due to present at the monthly meeting next week. All 6 members did not want to attend in person due to anxiety relating to Covid. They had therefore arranged for the meeting to be delivered via Zoom with attendees seeing the Zoom presentation on the big screen within Jubilee Hall. The committee debated the practicalities of this and felt (1) that this was a backward step as government guidance now was that public meetings can go ahead (with the usual restrictions of spacing, masks and ventilation), (2) that this was fraught with risk as technical issues could occur with the shared screens and music (3) the presentation would have to be split in half with 2 links due to the restriction of Zoom time (30 minutes), (4) that this is usually a star attraction and the atmosphere in the hall and interaction between presenter and audience is usually an important component that would be sadly missing, (5) the Zoom attendance for the last monthly meeting had sadly dwindled to 8 participants.

It was therefore decided to defer this presentation until later in the year (September). Averil then phoned the Photography group convenor to explain our position with emphasis on point 4.

Fortunately Pete Burrow agreed to deliver a presentation on trips to China that sounded very interesting and entertaining.

Further discussion then took place regarding Covid and the need for clarity on our position. All recognised that there was still heightened anxiety amongst some members, who classed themselves as shielding, but it was also pointed out that there was no government guidance for anyone to shield since July 2021. The only members who should not be going out (currently for a 5 day isolation period) were those who had

Covid. Offering Hybrid meetings may be requested by some members but these offered technical challenges, nobody wanted to host them, and they were requested by members who didn't want to meet in public, rather than members who were unable to go out. In addition previous Hybrid meetings had been stopped because there was only one participant (October) and the disappointing numbers for December's Zoom only meeting suggested that this format had lost its appeal.

Individual group activity had largely resumed. It was recognised that as groups are relatively small they would discuss Covid infection control themselves and as long as they adhered to the minimum of government guidance then it was upto individual groups to establish a meeting that everyone was happy with. For example it was known that the photography group was still meeting on-line only, whereas other groups (e.g. Food & Drink, Art Appreciation) were meeting in person.

**Action:**

Pam to email members with details of the change to the monthly meeting presentation and clarification regarding our position on Covid

Tony to email Bernard Harvey (convenor of the photography group) thanking them for agreeing to the deferral of their talk

**4.1 Communication with the Membership**

A proposed email was read out that all were happy with (this is included at the end of the Minutes for transparency).

• **Website**

There was no progress regarding the updating of the website, but all recognised that this is likely to be the first port of call for any potential new members, although less likely to be used by existing members. Ian Webb was still putting on items when requested but it was accepted that this was above and beyond what was agreed – as he had now stepped down. It was suggested that members are asked if they have any young relatives undertaking D of E awards who may wish to develop a website for their community contribution section, as this was how Thropton Hall had got their new website. A website that is easy to update was paramount.

A message is to be posted on the website asking if anyone is interested in taking this on.

**Action:**

Tony to ask if anyone is interested in taking this on at the monthly meeting

Pam to contact Ian Webb to request the updated monthly meeting schedule is posted on the website and to post a request for a new webmaster on the website

• **Completion of Monthly Meeting Calendar for 2022**

There are still a few gaps on this year's schedule. Tony is looking to fill these but further ideas welcomed

**Action:** All to bring ideas/contact details for speakers for the remainder of this year and 2023 to next meeting

• **Any Other Business**

Nil

• **Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm via Zoom

### **E-mail with Covid position clarification sent to members 13.1.22**

The committee feel it is important for everyone to be aware of our position as a membership organisation in relation to Covid. This is quite simply that we are following Government advice so

- indoor meetings can meet with the precautionary measure of 1m spacing between seats and the wearing of masks and good ventilation within the hall. We will offer tea and coffee but this will be using disposable cups which you would throw away yourself in bins provided.
- groups for outdoor activities can continue to operate with no restrictions other than the usual social distancing

The committee feels it has no right to insist that individuals attending undertake Lateral Flow tests or have to prove their vaccination status.. It is of the view that members, due to their maturity of age, will be well aware of the need to keep infection rates low and are therefore likely to be fully vaccinated and would not attend a meeting if they were showing any signs of infection. Many will choose to take lateral flow tests regularly. Individual groups will talk about their own approach with their members but this should of course