

**Minutes of committee meeting held via Zoom at 3.00pm on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022****PRESENT:**

Tony Henry, Chair; Pam Campbell, Business secretary ; Averil Fendley, Membership secretary; Pete Burrow, Social Secretary

- **Apologies**

Lesley Patterson, Treasurer; John Rutherford – Groups Convenor.

- **Minutes of last meeting**

Accepted as a true record.

- **Matters Arising**

Nil

- **Membership Update**

Averil reported that there had been a small but steady growth of new members over the last few months. The response to the email requesting payment of membership fees by BACS had been good, and in addition there were a number of cheques/cash to be paid in. The exact number of members who had now paid for 2022-23 was unknown but it was explained that this is always fluid at this time of year as fees gradually come in. Many members preferred to pay in person when attending the monthly open meetings

**Action:**

- Lesley and Averil to continue to monitor the membership numbers and report back at the end of June

- **Website**

John Rutherford had made contact with Collie Dog computers regarding a new website but there was no progress to report as a further meeting was required. Ian Webb had offered to take part in any discussions but the committee felt that the changes needed were more of a general update of content and design. It was noted that the membership forms on the website are still out of date i.e. for 2021-22.

We do now have someone who has expressed an interest in becoming the webmaster (Vivienne Fleet), however, she is unable to consider this till the Autumn as she is working FT till then

**Action:**

- John to meet with Colliedog Computers to discuss what was required in more detail
- Pam to maintain contact with Vivienne Fleet, but not pressurise her into this, respecting her other commitments

- **Questionnaire Responses**

Pam reported back on the results from the Questionnaire. This was as follows:-

A disappointing 31 responses

Of these, 24 were happy with this year's range of speakers and topics for the

monthly meetings; 4 were not happy; 4 were uncertain

Comments that accompanied this question included:

*More opportunity to socialise would be welcome*

*Miss the Quiz that had been held in January as this was a good way of socialising because it put people into mixed groups*

*4 responses saying "would like more audience engagement in the meetings"*

*Some poor speakers*

The committee discussed the above and suggested that in future the monthly meetings should be advertised as 10.00 for 10.30 – this would enable more people to socialise and chat prior to speakers. It was also suggested that future speakers should be informed that there had been more requests for audience participation in sessions.

There had been a very good response to suggestions for future speakers. From the list that was given the committee agreed to look into the following potential speakers:-

- The Right Hon Baroness Joyce Quinn (former Labour MP and educated locally)
- Maintaining Physical & Mental Health & Wellbeing (ask Rothbury Practice for a speaker)
- Governor of HMP Acklington – on the Prison system
- NCC representative on Waste Recycling, and the Private Finance Initiative
- Tom Burston, member of Agricultural Commission (a local man) on overseeing Farming today
- Northumbria Wildlife Trust

**Action:**

- Tony to make contact with the above to assess availability and willingness to speak

- **Social Activities – results from questionnaire**

The results of the questionnaire were presented as follows

Events that members may be interested in attending:

Type of event	No interested in attending
Classical Live Music events	15
Other live music events	14
Plays	20
Musicals	8
Opera	9
Ballet	12
Nat Theatre Live Screenings	13
Films at Alnwick Playhouse	16
Quiz	14

Visits to stately homes/gardens	5
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Pete explained that in response to these results he was now planning a Quiz at the Jubilee Hall. However, overall he had noticed that although people express interest in events it is still often difficult to fill places; it was felt that this may be a consequence of the pandemic whereby people have got out of the habit of going out. The questionnaire had also asked for specific interest in trips that have been planned. These were:

Event	Numbers interested	Action taken
Paxton House Music festival	11	booked
Jupiter Artland	20	Pending for September
Raby Castle	8	?
The Commitments	6	?
Straight Line Crazy	1	?
Book of Mormon	0	booked
We Will Rock You	0	

Pete explained that these numbers did not always correlate with the actual interest shown to him – for example, The Book of Mormon is now fully booked whereas questionnaire responses showed no interest. All agreed that the questionnaire, with its low return rate should be treated with caution but it was a way of demonstrating that we had canvassed opinion

**• Groups**

The questionnaire had asked if there were any other groups wanted by members and there had been suggestions as follows:

- French Language & Culture - 1 person
- Table Top games (winter only)- Chess/Canasta/Rummikub – 1 person
- History – 2 people
- Arts & Crafts – 1 person

However, none of the people putting these ideas forward were prepared to be a group convenor, so no further action could be taken

**• Any Other Business**

The price per head for the Garden Party was not yet known, and this needed advertising. It was suggested that a meeting between Pam, Averil and Lesley may be useful prior to the garden party to sort out details.

Averil pointed out that as the majority of the committee would be leaving their committee roles next year there should be some sort of alarm raised about this well in advance

**Action:**

- Tony to liaise with the Three Wheat Heads re cost of afternoon tea
- Tony to raise issue of new committee at monthly meetings and the Garden Party
- **Date and Time of Next Meeting:**

7.00pm Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July by Zoom – LATER AMENDED TO MONDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY AT 6.30PM VIA ZOOM