

Downham Market and District U3A Committee Meeting

Monday 7th November 2022 10am

50 Primrose Ave. Downham Market

1. Present: JC, CC, FB, JC, CD, LL, TS, FG, LE
2. Minutes of Previous Meeting (October 2022) Circulated and approved by the Committee. JC signed copy.
3. Matters Arising
 - a) JC was pleased to be able to support the Creation of the Macular Society Branch in Downham Market. The speaker at the last meeting gave a good presentation and many people expressed interest.
 - b) There has been no follow up so far to the 'Stop a Crisis' invitation sent to the Community Development Officer.
 - c) CD now has a U3A email address
 - d) JC reported the vote to increase the capitation fee levied on u3a branches was defeated at the national u3a AGM.
4. Reports
 - A. Chair JC Since Covid the national membership of U3A has dropped by 60,000. JC asked if CH was still on the list of Trustees. Ruth's name has been removed or may not have been on it. JC will amend the list. Denver Village Hall has increased charges from £10 to £15 per Hour. There is no information so far about possible increases in charges from Discover Downham or Town Council. It was agreed to encourage more members to join the Committee as we are still officially four short. There was a discussion on the pros and cons of obtaining a card reader and it was agreed to investigate further including contacting other u3as. Discussion on the future of the bulletin after Ken's retirement and whether it needs to be so lengthy or whether just a Newsletter would be adequate.
 - B. LL Vice-Chair. New Member Support. New members who have joined since 1st April have been invited to a Coffee Morning at Discover Downham on 24th November.
 - C. CD Treasurer. Circulated the Finance Report. No invoice yet received for the December Town Hall hire. An extra hour is needed for the Xmas party. JC to arrange. CD will investigate how to resolve problem of rogue £5 on the online statement since 2018. The coffee morning referred to above to be financed from U3A funds.

- D. TS. Membership Secretary & Beacon Admin. There are currently 203 members including 3 not yet processed. Members on the list for the Kings Lynn Climate Conversation group will be Associate Members. TS undertook the Beacon System training. Discussion on Beacon followed. One and half million emails per month are processed through Beacon.
- E. FB Business Secretary. Discussion on U3A policy on environmental issues. Sample from national u3a circulated. FB will check if it differs from our existing policy. LL suggested we don't continually update our policy but members should be reminded that risk assessments are done for all meetings. CC said all Group Leaders are advised about this.
- F. FG Speaker Secretary. Speaker for November meeting is John Petters talking about jazz. Arrangements for the Xmas party are well in hand. Discussion followed on positioning of tables at the entrance for meetings so people cannot by-pass as Attendance list needs to be accurate for safety. JC was asked to arrange this with Town Hall staff and mention this and the turning off of mobiles during his welcome speech. Parking space must be reserved for speakers outside the hall entrance subject to cooperation of TH staff.
- G. CC. Groups Co-ordinator. Several groups are trying to recruit new members so hope they will be represented at Coffee Morning on 24th. JS is considering an indoor games group again in the New Year. CC will check if the afternoon tea group is going ahead. JC would like someone to take over the gardening group. FB asked if we are having that Groups annual lunch.
5. AOB. Norfolk Hospice are doing an Xmas tree recycling scheme. Notice to be put in the December Bulletin and on the table at December meeting.
6. Date of next meeting. Monday 7th December 10 am. Hosted by TS at 9 Lavender Drive, Downham Market.
7. Meeting closed 12.00. Thanks to LL for hosting.