

Dulwich and District u3a Trustees' Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of meeting on Zoom Thursday 13 January 2022 at 10.15 am

Present: Neil Abrahams (NA), David Beamish (DB), Pam Cohen (PC), Ruth Colvin (RC), Jane Coupe (JC), Richard Elliott (RE), Helen Graham (HG), Caroline Knapp (CK), Helen Robertson (HR), Anne Sharpley (AS), Maggie Smith (MS) (Minutes).

In the Absence of the Chair, Neil Abrahams (NA) was elected Acting Chair for the meeting.
Permission was given to record the meeting for the purposes of minutes after which it would be deleted.

- 1. Apologies:** Keith Ball (KB), Angela Brown (AB), Sandra Tait (ST).

Minutes of previous meeting 9 December 2021

Owing to transposing the minutes, some of the formatting had been lost. MS and AB to discuss.
Not all members appeared to have seen the corrected draft minutes with AS comments added. DB to re-send the minutes and if agreed by the majority they would become the final version.

- 2. Matters arising not covered by Agenda**

Item 12: Details of the Digital skills course had not been received in time for January Newsletter.
ACTION: RE to send out Zoom link for 14 January and advertise 21 & 28 January in mid-monthly Newsheet.

Item 15: Lewisham Library contact has left her post. AB will try to contact her replacement.

- 3. Treasurer's report and update (RC)**

Bank balances: Current a/c - £ 9,054.99; Deposit a/c - £10,030.03; Petty cash £50.

Income in December: From new members – £23. From renewals – nil.

Spending included: St Barnabas re table tennis £128.00; V Mosenthal: post, print, envelopes: £12.94

Annual returns of the old charity had been submitted to the Charity Commission. This can be viewed on the Charity Commission website quoting our charity number.

RC confirmed that new charity was not yet eligible for Gift Aid but she will be applying before start of new membership year in April.

ACTION RC to register new charity for Gift Aid.

The new cheque signatures are now acceptable.

Outstanding details: MS has an appointment at Barclays, Lordship Lane, on 31 January.

- 4. Membership Secretary's report (JC)**

Membership information at 7 January 2022

Current 650; Deceased 4; Lapsed 92; Resigned 46

New since last month 3

Current members by class: Associate 13 (2%); Carer 2 (0%); Concession 8 (1%); Individual 627 (96%)

Male: 133 - 20%; Female: 291 - 45%.

Members with Email: 642 – 99%

68 new members since April 2021.

Male/female column does not include the total membership and is therefore not an accurate figure.

Action: JC to discontinue publishing this figure but continue to count members with email.

Coaching new Convenors: JC had discussed this with Karen Chessell and would give her names of potential members although this was difficult while there were fewer live meetings.

5. SCID (minutes) PC

AB had requested to visit SCID Meeting to hear SCID members' views on progress since 2020 AGM and future plans. PC, AB and Max Fishel to meet to sketch out the role of Accessibility Lead as it pertains to D&D. **Diversity:** PC reported difficulty in accessing relevant community groups. Hoping to arrange face-to-face meetings and possibly find venues in different areas. Covid restrictions impede this. SCID needs more members. Next SCID Meeting 17 January.

6. Convenors' lunch CK, HG & HR

30 came, fewer than expected because of the new Covid. Enjoyed the opportunity to talk to new people. Windows and doors were opened and tables spread out and food pre-wrapped. NA thanked the organisers for their hard work and excellent buffet lunch.

Questionnaires were distributed to the Convenors.

It was agreed to send the questionnaires together with an invitation to attend the ongoing Third Age Trust Diversity workshops, to all the Convenors requesting a reply from those who had not attended either event or had not completed the questionnaire.

ACTION: DB and Coordinators to complete after confirmation of Convenors' names.

7. Questionnaire feedback (previously circulated)

(18 completed). TEC discussed some of the points raised in the feedback. It was agreed that the SCID Group would look at the results to see if any of the suggestions could be implemented and report back to the TEC. The item on 'buddies' to be followed up by the Coordinators and fed back to the TEC. **ACTION:** PC and Group Coordinators.

8. Funding of Singing for Pleasure group – CK

CK was grateful for the grant for sheet music. CK questioned the TEC statement that irregular attenders would be discriminated against for not paying in advance and asked for suggestions on how the group would be able to afford a professional pianist as she had already asked for volunteers without success. Following the discussion, it was agreed that CK would meet with AB and RC and bring back suggestions to the TEC.

9. Mailchimp requirements – RE

RE had received the links for the Digital Skills course, which had not changed, from KB. They would be circulated to members the following day on Mailchimp. He requested that any Zoom links for events are sent to him as soon as possible. The next newsheet will be on 15 January.

Images: PC raised the question of images shown in the Newsletter, website and Facebook pages. She felt that the images did not sufficiently show our commitment to diversity (e.g., couple strolling in a leafy road in Dulwich, English Christian Churches, and Cambridge/academic background as a full front page of newsletter). During the discussion it was explained that (a) there were no other articles for that month's newsletter, (b) the Church article was about architecture, (c) we have used images of diverse speakers in the past. TEC agreed we must be mindful that our publications should try to show a diversity of images.

10. Convenors' survey Proposal: from HG

Survey of all Convenors to establish which groups are operational and how they are meeting.

ACTION: HG/HR/CK to produce a questionnaire for Convenors .DB agreed to circulate

11. D&D u3a 40th Anniversary celebration (September 2022)

Generally agreed in principle to support national u3a, using it as a recruitment and publicity opportunity. It was considered too early to start planning. Our most successful campaign was linked to Dulwich Park Fair, and we would look for a similar link.

Tree planting project:

Should we support the national u3a initiative to plant a tree, as part of the 40th anniversary celebration? Discussion points: Link with Dulwich Society or Bell House or similar? Lewisham and Southwark have schemes. New trees need looking after. Plant in areas which need them not necessarily our own areas. Agreed to pass the proposal to the Climate Change & Consumer Power Group to look at the viability and report back to TEC. **ACTION ST**

12. Coffee morning & New Members' Teas

There is still uncertainty about meeting socially although we have met in Francis Peek Centre. Will be considered on a month-by-month basis in accordance with government advice.

Coffee Mornings: These have been very successful on Zoom and will be continued.

ACTION ST.

New Members' Teas: Discuss at next TEC meeting.

Afternoon Teas: Discuss at next TEC Meeting.

13. AOB

AS suggested that Trustees be informed of any follow up to the Diversity Workshops by Max Fishel.

Forthcoming Network Events on Zoom:

London Region Network Link – Wednesday 16 February at 10am (Derek Harwood)

London Region Communication and PR Group – Monday 7 February at 2pm (Rodney Fox)

'How to Read English Churches' Open Meeting, Thursday 27 January, hybrid Meeting at Francis Peek Centre at 2pm. Seats **MUST** be booked as there will be a restricted number.

Meeting closed at 12.00 noon.

Date and location of next meeting: Thursday 10 February 10.15 am–12.15 pm, Rosebery Lodge or Zoom – tba