

**MINUTES OF EXE VALLEY U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT THE OLD
HEATHCOAT SCHOOL COMMUNITY CENTRE ON WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER
2023**

Present: M Turner (Chair), C Redhead (Secretary), E Oakley, J Riddiford, J Kelly, J Jeffrey, D Lal, C Boote, A Bush

Apologies: Paul Sadler, Karyl Huntley-Sadler

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as being a true record and signed by the Chair. There were no amendments.

There were no matters arising.

Chair's Report

1. Mike had attended the North Devon Link Meeting. The Theme Day was discussed and will be in October 2024. Mike mentioned that we felt there should be hard copies of tickets for selling. This was agreed. Many details have been sorted and there will be three speakers. Each u3a will be expected to sell a minimum of 10 tickets, hopefully more. The next Link Meeting is in February 2024. Theme Day will be discussed further and all u3as will be given allocated tasks for the day.
2. Everyone felt that last month's talk on the Festival of Britain was very good.

Secretary's Report

1. The National AGM is on 18 October and Chris is willing to vote remotely. The committee agreed she should use her judgment on how to vote.
2. The latest e mail from National Office to Treasurers, Secretaries, and Chairs had been circulated to the committee.
3. The National Newsletter has also been circulated.

Treasurer's Report

Paul has circulated all his reports to the committee before going on holiday.

1. There is a query as to whether we can continue to claim Gift Aid and this is being looked into by HMRC and by the National Legal team. Paul will report back to us.
2. The other issues Paul mentioned were discussed, especially Pay Pal and it was agreed that we stick by our original decision not to use Pay Pal any more and to close it down.
3. Balance at end September was £2636.99 in the bank and £191 in the floats.

Membership Secretary's Report

We have 222 members, 1 new member and one member has died. The renewal of subscriptions reminder will be going into the Newsletter. These will start to be taken in November and are due by January.

Beacon Report

1. Jo can't disable Pay Pal without referring to the Beacon Team.
2. **Jill and Jo** need to test between them that the Beacon link to renew membership is working.

Programme Organiser's Report

1. After having booked all of next year's programme Joan and Jo have heard back from Anne Widdicombe's PA that she will give a talk to us free of charge with the proviso that she can sign and sell her books. We have therefore looked at months when there is a fifth Wednesday and given them a date of Wednesday 30 October 2024 provisionally if agreed by committee. Everyone voted to go for this and **Jo** will confirm it with the PA. **Joan** will then insert it into the programme for 2024-2025.
2. Joan also mentioned that she has heard via her daughter of a very good talk on the History of Mary Anning, or the option to visit Lyme Regis Museum for a talk. It was decided that **Anne** will look into hiring a coach for an outing to the Museum next spring and will contact the museum to discuss further. Further details will come at a later date when all is confirmed. **Joan** had mentioned this to David Meredith as something the Local History might like to do but she will now let him know that we are arranging it through committee.
3. Tim has kindly agreed to give us his Music Hall talk for our December meeting with some changes to the original talk he gave to the World History.

IT

1. As Carol is going on holiday and Tim is doing the Newsletter this time, all entries will need to be in early or exactly on time. Tim will be doing the screen presentation at the meeting.
2. Carol has given Paul her old phones to see if they can be used for Sum Up but it was agreed by committee that Sum Up is not essential if we run into problems with it if **and when we change venue.**

Social Organiser's Report

1. Anne has spoken to the Tiverton Hotel with regard to that being a possible alternative venue for meetings. After discussion it was agreed that the cost was a little too high.
2. Anne has had various e mails with suggestions for u3a holidays and day trips. However, it was agreed that the Lyme Regis outing seemed the most likely to be popular and within a reasonable budget for everyone.
3. **Anne** suggested a visit to Hinkley Point with a guided tour and will look this further.
4. Deborah has spoken to Vicki re the organising of a Treasure Hunt as Vicki had offered to do this and has suggested Thursday 9 May. Vicki will plan this and **Deborah** will speak to her regarding charges etc. She will confirm the date with Vicki and we will discuss details at a later meeting.
5. After discussion it was agreed to hold a Quiz in the new year and **Anne** will speak to York Dawson regarding the questions.
6. A coffee morning for new members was discussed and Joan suggested that as well as committee, we invite the Group Leaders to this. This will be arranged for January and we will discuss a date at our next meeting.

Group Co-ordinator's Report

1. Karyl has now been to a MOTO meeting and a Poetry meeting and thoroughly enjoyed both.
2. She has 5 Risk Assessments still not returned to her.
3. She attended the Group Co-ordinator's workshop which she found most helpful.
4. She pointed out that any groups which involve Physical Activities should have an emergency contact number in case of illness or accident. Eric and Carol would take this up with the Rambling Group to make sure this has been done.

A vote was taken on moving to the Cherith Hall for monthly meetings due to their being a few issues with the OHSCC. This was agreed and **Carol** will confirm with the Cherith and then let **Chris** know so that she can cancel the OHSCC and let **Mike** know so that he can put an insertion into the Newsletter to this effect. We will move venue for the December meeting.

Website

Wendy has informed us that the new Website will be up and running soon so progress is being made. The Site Builder will be replaced by Site Works. We will then have to agree the new Terms and Conditions and Wendy will then go on a training course for this. We then have to decide if we want to transfer our existing info to the new Website or start from scratch.

There have been 345 home hits and 119 newsletter hits, totalling 464.

Welfare

The usual cards have been sent.

Newsletter Insertions

1. Last month's talk – good.
2. Mention of proposed trip to Lyme Regis Museum and Hinkley Point.
3. Mention of Quiz - March
4. Mention of Treasure Hunt – May
5. Mention of moving monthly meeting venue.

Anne will give Mike a synopsis of what to put for the various events.

AOB

Discussions for the next meeting

1. Discuss Facebook and Publicity..
2. Discuss a fund raising/social event for next October.
3. Discuss making the Anne Widdicombe meeting an open meeting to attract new members.