

MINUTES OF EXE VALLEY U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT THE OHSCC

Present: M Turner (Chair), C Redhead (Secretary), P Sadler (Treasurer), E Oakley, J Riddiford, D Lal, J Kelly, J Jeffrey, C Boote, K Huntley-Sadler

Apologies: A Bush

Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as being a true record and signed by the chair. There were no matters arising.

Chair's Report

1. The next North Devon Link meeting is on Friday 8 September and Mike and Chris will be attending. Braunton are organising the U3A Theme Day. The committee felt that printed tickets should be available for this and **Chris and Mike** will mention it.
2. Chris mentioned that she cannot guarantee to carry on going the Link meetings but it was agreed we should still take part and other committee members are happy to go when necessary, as is Mike.
3. Mike had no further response from members as a result of asking for replies to the survey.
4. Publicity – Facebook was felt to be a good way of promoting our U3A and Deborah wondered whether Nigel might take this on. **Deborah** will ask him.
5. The problem of transporting the technical equipment and having a technician if Tim moves was discussed and we need to think about this.

Secretary's Report

1. An E mail from National Office re the new Pilot Council has been received and will be discussed at the North Devon Link Meeting.
2. An e mail to Secretaries/Treasurers/Chairs has been received with the programme for the U3A week, including on line programme. We will not be taking part in this.
3. There is also a fayre for interest groups on line
4. There is a U3A week page on the National Website listing talks and workshops coming up on various subjects including one on Interest Groups and one on Finance. **Paul and Karyl** are signing up for this.
5. **Paul and Karyl are** also signing up for the Beacon courses on Interest Groups and Finance.

Treasurer's Report

1. The Bank balance is £2537.29 and the cash in hand is £136. We are £20 in the black this month.
2. **Paul** said he needs to sort how to record our cash float and this was discussed.
3. There was a problem at the monthly meeting with the Sum up machine and Paul may have to sit on the entrance table.
4. Pay Pal was discussed and it was decided to discontinue it because of the expense and inconvenience. **Eric and Paul** will look into how to deactivate Pay Pal.

Membership Secretary's Report

We now have 222 members, 5 new members this month who are all associate members.

We have 17 Individual associate members, 9 Joint associate members, 126 Individual members and 70 Joint members.

In future only new member badges will be on display at monthly meetings.

Mike asked if we should have a threshold of members and 300 was thought to be a suitable maximum number.

At the AGM we may have to propose an increase in membership fees for the following year beginning in March 2025. **This will be discussed at a future meeting.**

Beacon Report

1. Training has already been discussed and Paul is going to check that him and Karyl are on the list.
2. Sum Up has also been discussed.

Programme Organiser's Report

1. The programme for 2024-2025 has been finalised and the committee have seen the details. This was approved. Jo pointed out that we have tried to keep costs down as much as possible.
2. Tim has been provisionally asked to provide entertainment at our Christmas monthly meeting and the committee approved this. **Joan** will confirm with Tim.
3. Paul mentioned that in future a possible talk might be from the people who run the barge on the canal.

IT/Publicity

1. All is running smoothly.
2. The cost of posting the Newsletter is increasing regularly but putting up the cost we pass on to members for this can be left as it is for the time being.
3. Carol has contacted Grenville Peters regarding the possibility of holding our monthly meetings at the Cherith Hall. There are 20 parking spaces available plus the option of using Tesco. The cost would hopefully be £40 but £50 maximum. There is a kitchen which we can use and the loos are accessible. We would not need to provide our own screen. There is no wifi and **Carol** will ask Tim the cost of his "gizmo"! **Carol** will say yes to the Cherith subject to approval as the committee felt it would be a more suitable venue.

Social Organiser's Report

Nothing to report

Group Co-ordinator's Report

1. The Risk Assessment forms are gradually coming in from the Group Leaders. It was suggested that Karyl might contact the remainder by phone.

2. Musical Discoveries is now no longer a part of the U3A and has been removed from the Newsletter.
3. Karyl had asked Group Leaders which groups are still open for members to join and which are closed. She has had replies from two who are open and from five who are full. The ones which are full are Skittles, Thursday Boules, Discussion, Reading Group 1 and Reading Group 2. Gardening Group is closed unless the member is willing to drive and take passengers.
4. There are two group leaders willing to give a two minute talk on their group – Wine and World History.
5. Karyl has visited quite a number of groups and Deborah invited her to the Wine Group.
6. Tony Clarke has disbanded the Art Group due to the fall in numbers.

Website

There were 368 home hits and 156 Newsletter hits

Chris will ask Wendy to remove Musical Discoveries from the Website and **Karyl** will remove them from Beacon

Welfare

The usual cards have been sent.

Newsletter.

Mike will put in a Risk Assessment reminder.

AOB

Eric and Deborah mentioned that Vicki is still very willing to run the Treasure Hunt and as it has always been so popular it was decided to ask her to give us some available dates in the spring. **Deborah** will do this.

Eric also said that York is willing to do another quiz but needs three months notice. It was agreed to ask him to do one in February or March and **Eric** will do this.

We will decided on dates at a later meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was closed and the next meeting was arranged for Wednesday 4 October. Paul and Karyl gave their apologies in advance as they will be away.