

Present: Christine Chittock (Chair), Ian McLaughlin, Maurice Chittock, John Hunt, Richard Morgan, Olwen Smith, Lyn Holmes, Camilla Benyon, Jan Collett from 13:54

1, **Apologies** Sheila Clarkson

2. **Any New Business** None

3. **Minutes of Last Meeting 3nov20**

These were agreed without amendment.

4. **Actions from 3nov20 meeting**

1. Photos for the website: IM, MC had sent a few.
2. Group updates for website: LH done.
3. Website updates: MR had updated the website and it looks very good. The committee thanked Marion.
4. Website Links: Links updated and improved. Care taken to avoid anything commercial with external links.
5. Website – photos of speakers: CC wrote to MR thanking her for her website updates. **Action ongoing.**
6. Debit card: RM will apply for a debit card though unsure what the outcome will be.
7. Format for treasurer’s report: RM done.
8. Write to TAT about employment possibilities: CC done. TAT employing a volunteer so in that sense they’ve responded.
9. Help with new member’s meetings: OS, LH happy to be involved though, in the circumstances, on hold. CC said it would be a priority in the new year and hopes that SC will be able to be involved again. **Action ongoing.**
10. U3A email accounts: IM, JH happy to stay as is at the moment. Others have found a separate U3A address useful. CC noted that we are one of the few U3As with U3A email addresses and reminded all to include 9 committee members in emails sent out to Committee.
11. Questions re-lockdown planning: CC – none received.
12. Coffee and chat: JH said it’s on hold till SC returns. **Action ongoing.**
13. Venues with disabled access: **Action on hold and ongoing.**
14. Bulletin – Zoom instructions: Done.
15. Latest covid advice: Done.
16. Membership job description: No comments.
17. Zoom Xmas party: See agenda item.
18. Youtube Xmas quiz link: IM done.
19. Card reader: RM **Action ongoing.**
20. Anniversary – CC said it was worth noting that her connection with ‘Wild Exmouth’ tree planting in feb20 had been successful with none vandalised as it was found that removal of labels for a period helped avoid this. Any further trees that we wish to plant will be looked after similarly.

5. Reports from Committee Members

Publicity CB said that not a lot had been happening, and 15 newsletters had been posted each month.

Membership OS noted that we'd lost 1 and gained 1 member and had a couple of enquiries. Interestingly one new member was from Somerset! CC said that we were doing better than many other U3As.

Newsletter and Tech Team JH said that the Dec Newsletter would be ready for issue tomorrow 2dec. CC remarked that a lot of members had been able to access the internet because of help from IM, JH and the Tech Team and thanked them for their efforts in helping to enable this. JH said that requests for help had now slowed to a trickle of about 2 per week.

Database MC said that he had provided some Beacon Training Sessions and more were planned. CC noted that some members had expressed their thanks and found the training very useful. LH was surprised that so few Group Organisers were interested in using Beacon. More publicity was planned for January.

Secretary and FB Group IM outlined the current position with our Zoom Contract and noted the need to increase the number of participants above 100 for the Christmas Party on 17dec. A number of options were discussed, including the charity scheme which, for an annual fee, allowed a 50% discount. JH said that a Zoom *upgrade* would allow the retention of the existing links. It was decided that a Zoom Add-On to increase the number of participants should be purchased for December and that the matter should be discussed in more detail in January **Actions IM.**

The Facebook Group now had 175 members and had an increasing number of views and also contributions from members.

Treasurer RM noted that as things were relatively quiet there hadn't been much financial activity.

Groups LH – one new Bird watching Group had been set up and the Risk Assessment completed. There then followed a discussion of which venues were open, and to what extent. CC – some of the relaxing of restrictions didn't sound correct. LH will ask where the ruling originates **Action LH.** JC noted that a tennis club was allowing singles matches but not doubles. A comparison of Government Rules for Exercise and for Indoor Leisure followed and it was agreed that JH's Newsletter paragraph on this was sufficiently clear and erred on the safe side. It was felt that introduction of the term 'hybrid' was not helpful and was confusing. The use of Zoom for groups was discussed and it was noted that the 40min cut-off for the free version could be a problem and the possibility of using Skype or Microsoft Teams was mentioned. JH suggested that it might be worth looking again at Skype and MS Teams for Groups. **Action JH, Tech Team.** CC noted the national advice that sharing a Zoom account was not recommended.

Chair and Speakers CC was pleased to see that Ian McCannah, U3A National Chair, had circulated our Branch's document on experiences of lockdown, saying that it was the best document he'd seen of all the U3A Branches. CC thanked the Committee for all their contributions to the ability to continue functioning and so to the ongoing success of Exmouth

U3A during lockdown. She listed forthcoming Speakers for Connect on Thursday and intended to ensure that any booked for June and July could present either in The Pavilion or via Zoom, depending on the covid situation then. The timing of our next AGM was discussed and it was agreed that it should be in May, thereby avoiding later holiday periods. A contribution after the AGM offered by Ian Bateman was welcomed.

OS mentioned that she was taking part in a scheme of Exeter's RD&E to volunteer in covid vaccine trials and suggested that this was worthwhile and also may allow an early vaccination for members. IM suggested that this might go in a forthcoming Bulletin along with other relevant information such as Christmas Party details. JH suggested issuing in about 2 weeks time.

6. Committee Roles – Membership.

Deferred for a later meeting.

7. Christmas Party

This would take place from 14:00 for 14:30 till about 16:00 on 17th December. Among other activities, there would be a quiz by Linda Whiter of our Quiz Group with a Musical Quiz by IM. More music, magic from Chaz Madge and Carols were planned. Seasonal AVs by Ian and Elaine Bateman and Sheila Haycox were also planned. OS would keep us informed of progress with John Smith's music contribution. CC offered her thanks to all those involved on behalf of the Committee.

8. Financial Reserves

RM suggested that this item be deferred till, say, January. He suggested that a Budget be prepared for Oct/Nov meeting, following the policy outlined in our U3A Financial Policy document.

9. East Devon Link Meeting 24nov20

CC had sent a summary as the Minutes were still to be ratified. She got the impression that a lot of U3A Branches were really struggling during lockdown, partly because there was a dearth of Technical people among members to help with the internet and Video Conferencing. Our Membership Fee was low in comparison to many and members were getting a lot for their money.


10. A.O.B

There was none. CC thanked the Committee, and the previous Committee, for all the work they had done this year and especially the Technical Team who had enabled Exmouth U3A to continue to provide members with a lot of interest and entertainment throughout this difficult time for everybody. JH, IM and everyone thanked Christine for all her hard work as Chairperson.

11. Date of next meeting 5jan21 at 13:00 by Zoom.

Ian McLauchlin, Secretary

date 2dec20

Signed: 

pp Christine Chittock, Chair

Date: 7jan21