

MINUTES OF EXMOUTH AND DISTRICT U3A COMMITTEE MEETING: 4 AUGUST 2020 BY ZOOM

Present: Sandra MacQueen (Chair), Christine Chittock, Maurice Chittock, Keith Phillips, Ian McLauchlin, Camilla Benyon, Olwen Smith, John Hunt, Lyn Holmes, Sheila Clarkson, Richard Morgan.

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of the meetings on the 7 July.**

These were agreed without any amendments.

3. **Matters arising.**

Sheila asked about Beacon and the role of the database manager. The reason for having a separate role were explained and a job description would be drawn up by Maurice. There is a user guide and help section for Beacon users. It was agreed that there would be a zoom workshop for the new committee. **Action: Maurice.**

Christine said some U3As have a privacy policy and it was agreed that the new committee would look at this. **Action: Keith to put on forward plan.**

3. **Reports.**

Reports (previously circulated) from Christine, Ian, John, Keith, Lyn, Maurice, and Richard were noted for filling with the minutes.

The following points were noted from the reports and verbal updates:

- The total balance at 1 July for the two bank accounts was £10,450.28 plus £1612.50 in cash and cheques still to be paid in.
- Maurice is continuing to update Beacon with membership renewals and reconciling standing orders and BACS payments. The technical problem reported last month has been resolved.
- The total paid up membership is 849 with 159 lapsed since the end of March.
- Ian confirmed that the Facebook Group now has 148 members.
- Christine circulated details of the Connect on Thursday zoom programme for the rest of 2020 which includes an excellent range of presentations from members and external speakers. In addition there will be at least one informal open session each month. There was also a separate list of some of the speakers planned for 2021.

- We now have a U3A zoom account set up by Ian and the capacity for August has been increased to 500.
- John reported that the Tech team has successfully dealt with over 60 requests for assistance with computer related problems. Despite the reduced demand John is happy to continue to offer this service.
- The experimental 'Together on Tuesday' virtual café on Facebook has quite a low member involvement. After a review John and Ian have decided to continue with it but without actively facilitating the discussion and members can participate in any way that they wish.
- The TAT are proposing to increase the membership fee from £3.50 to £4.00 pp from 2022 at their AGM in September. Keith reported that two amendments have been put forward by some U3A groups – one proposing to defer the increase until 2023, the other proposing a higher fee of £4.50 from 2022. After discussion it was agreed to support the one year deferral. **Action: Keith**
- Minutes from the recent East Devon link meeting and an update from the Devon Link coordinator were noted.
- The Copyright Licence would be renewed at a cost of £60 for the year.
- The TAT AGM is on the 29th September and information has now been received on the proposal for the south west regional representative on which we can vote before the end of August. Keith to circulate details. **Action: Keith** .

5. Groups.

Keith had circulated an email from a group organiser who was considering whether to continue with the group as it was not known when face to face meetings would restart. The committee noted that the group could possibly merge with another similar one or the organiser could decide that the group had run its course. It was agreed that John would respond. **Action: John**

Lyn reported on one group organiser proposing an outing to visit some gardens. From information supplied by Lyn and Chrstine, it appeared that this would be contrary to the guidelines and advice from TAT. Keith mentioned the recent update from TAT which would be reported in the bulletin this week and placed on the website. This clarified the restrictions on both indoor and outdoor activities. It was agreed that this advice would be sent out to all group organisers. **Action: Lyn**

6. AGM.

An update on the number of votes received so far was provided by Keith who suggested that committee members should ask partners, friends, group colleagues etc to send in their vote so we can achieve the minimum 20% response by the 11th August. **Action: committee**

A rehearsal of the AGM would take place after the committee meeting to agree the format and voting arrangements.

7. AOB.

Keith and Sandy reported on messages from two members expressing their appreciation to the efforts of the committee during lockdown.

8. Next meeting

The first meeting of the new committee will take place by Zoom on **Tuesday 1 September at 14.00**

Signed:  pp. Christine Chittock, Chair

Dated: 4 September 2020