

## Grange & District u3a

### Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held on Friday 13 January 2023 in the Council Chamber, Victoria Hall

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>Present</b> Brian Loader, Michael McCormick, Susan Jones, Mick Love Julia Nicholson, Christine Patrick Tricia Thomas,</p> <p><b>Apologies</b> Hilary Wade, Ged Jones, John Eakins</p> <p><b>1 Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 16 December 2022)</b> The minutes incorrectly showed Mick Love has having attended when he had sent apologies. With this correction</p> <p><b>2 Matters Arising/Actions Check</b> It was agreed that Michael will issue a note to GCLs encouraging them to set accurate prices for future outings/events and to ensure a critical mass is achieved to cover costs before committing to expenditure.</p> <p>John has labelled the u3a equipment. All u3a equipment is stored in our cupboard in the Victoria Hall apart from items on permanent loan; the old projector is in the keeping of the Art Appreciation group and the old lap top is in the keeping of the Digital Photography group.</p> <p><b>3 Grange u3a website</b> Brian has sent an email to all Group Coordinators/Leaders (GCLs) asking them to look at the website and let Phil Nicholson know if they have any photographs or information to add.</p> <p><b>4 Future meetings</b> Making the reservations for the monthly meeting at the Victoria Hall will be the responsibility of the Secretary.</p> <p>The booking form is 9 pages long supported by a two-page document detailing the responsibility of the Responsible Organiser. Although there were misgivings about the length of the form Tricia explained that once completed for the first meeting it should be repetitive, straightforward process. Tricia also said that the form makes it clear what is required for each meeting. However, for variations to the regular layout a new form needs to be submitted (as will be the case for the Enrolment Day meeting and the Annual General Meeting).</p> <p>Brian expressed concern that the 2-page document which has to be completed by the Responsible Organiser may put off future volunteers but Tricia explained this is now expected of all public bodies.</p> <p>Tricia offered to help Ged complete the form if that would help.</p>	<p>Michael</p>

**[Post meeting note: Ged has submitted a booking form covering all dates up to the end of March 2024. The diversity policy was stated as “Open to everyone retired or semi-retired”].**

#### **4 Membership**

Susan had circulated a membership report prior to the meeting. She confirmed that we have 490 members of whom 13 are Associate Members, 8 are reciprocal members and there are 2 new members.

#### **5 Finance**

Michael had circulated a report prior to the meeting and the accounts were accepted.

Michael pointed out that the Community Account has now dipped below £10,000 but our total funds (including the Holding Account) were £13,000 with no debts. Michael has ordered a new paying book for the Holding account.

Michael reminded Ged to claim for the u3a pocket diaries.

Michael expressed concern that the number of members attending the monthly general meeting has dropped and the last meeting saw only 54 attendees.

Christine agreed to send out an email reminder each month to see if this would stimulate an increase in attendees.

Christine

#### ***Victoria Hall charges***

There was disquiet among committee members regarding the combination of declining attendance and increasing hire charges. The committee considered ways to mitigate the cost of the hall and it was agreed that members would set out and clear away the chairs for the meeting as this would save the cost of front of house staff. Tricia agreed to talk to the Victoria Hall manager to see whether it would be possible to book the hall for 30 minutes rather than an hour before and 30 minutes rather than an hour after the meeting.

Assuming the Victoria Hall manager is amenable to booking half hour slots it was agreed that:

- The booking period would be 9:15 to 12:45
- Include the use of screen, projector and kitchen
- No need for front of house staff

Mick, Brian and Christine kindly offered to set out the chairs for the January meeting.

The committee thought an increase (from £1 to £2) in the entrance fee for monthly meetings was long overdue, especially as the fee included refreshments. It was agreed to include this on the agenda of the February meeting

Ged

An increase in the annual membership fee was also discussed. Such an increase would have to be put to the AGM and it was agreed to discuss the matter at the February committee meeting

Ged

Brian agreed to send an email to committee members regarding the monthly meeting fee before it is announced.

Brian

**6 Group Coordinators/Leaders (GC/Ls)**

The search for a Group Liaison Officer (GLO) continues

Julie Robinson is to set up a new group (Bible Quest) which will meet on the first and third Tuesday of the month. Information is to be sent to Phil Nicholson

Brian to circulate the information to members.

Brian

**10 Any Other Business**

No other business.

**9 Date of next meetings**

Friday 17 February 2023, Council Chamber, Victoria Hall