

Kings Norton

& District

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 15 May 2022**

**Present:** Linda Curry (Chair), Beryl Blood, Lorna Brown, Pauline George, Vicki Hone, Helen Kempster, Margaret Lusher, Jenny Snashall, Pauline Amor.

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| 1. **Welcome and apologies (LC)**   LC welcomed all to the meeting. No apologies had been received.   1. **Minutes of the last meeting**.   The minutes of the meeting on 19 April 2022 were approved.   1. **Matters arising**   No matters arising that would not be dealt with later in agenda.   1. **Chair’s report (LC)**   LC began by paying tribute to JS who was leaving Birmingham late in June to be closer to family. She will be greatly missed.  The Network Interest Group Coordinators had not yet been able to get together. LC noted that KingsHeath u3a was losing one of their coordinators, their AGM is due later this month. She planned to try to arrange a meeting for the Chairs and Interest Group Coordinators for a date in June.  She needs a list of Interest Groups that are looking to collaborate, which she would provide to Kings Heath and Harborne for distribution.  BB advised that although the Recorders Group was meeting in her house, rather than the hall, there was room for more members. PG noted that Board/Crafternoon could accommodate more members.   1. **Speaker bookings (LC)**   LC reported that all speakers were booked upto the end of 2022 now, with no meeting in August and a Christmas social in December.  September – Songs and music banned by the BBC  October – Model aircraft  November - Birmingham at War  She will look to rescheduling “From Barrow to Baghdad” by Philip Caine (twice cancelled) to Summer 2023.   1. **AGM & talk on Hidden Bournville (LC)**   88 attended. All agreed that the AGM had gone well and that the informal style, followed by a speaker had worked well.  There had again been difficulty for those at the back of the hall hearing the speaker, who had chosen not to use a microphone. Whilst he could be heard at the beginning of his talk, he became quieter as the talk progressed. Speakers must use a microphone in future.  LB reported that she had written to the Diocesan Office to enquire if they would be willing to install a hearing loop, if the u3a was to support the installation. The church were not prepared to do this.  There had been a complaint that a member had parked in the newly designated parking space for the clergy. LC to include parking directions with the meeting invitations to members     1. **June general meeting**   LC is to write and confirm the speaker – talk “ Cavaliers and Roundheads”  It was agreed that individual cakes would be bought in to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee. JS to source red/white/blue decorated cakes for 80 people, or failing that plain cakes with decorated plates.  LC noted that she had been reminded by Allan Walmsley (AW) that there was a grant of £150 available from u3a for special events. It was agreed that LC should apply for the grant to support both special Jubilee events: the garden party on 8 June (PG) and the speaker meeting on 7 June. JS to provide LC with indicative costs for hall/speaker/refreshments for the grant application. PG will provide costs for refreshments for the garden party.  ML circulated a draft leaflet she had produced for KNu3a which included contact details, details of Interest Groups and the programme of Speakers to the end of 2022. It was agreed that copies of the leaflet should be printed off.  LB circulated paper versions of the post card (previously sent to the committee by email) a copy of the postcard produced by Croydon u3a. She noted that Croydon u3a had advised that other u3as were welcome to use any part of the postcard in their publicity material. It was agreed that the postcard could form a useful basis for a similar postcard or other advertising material for KNu3a .PG would investigate printing costs.   1. **Interest Groups (PG)**   Groups had slowed up over the Easter holiday period, with bank holidays and members and/or leaders away. They were getting back to normal now, and good weather enabled meetings to be held outside.  PG is awaiting the go ahead to contact Interest Group Leader Coordinators at Kings Heath and Harborne.  Interest Group Guidelines need to be updated/agreed and then circulated.  PG suggested that there could be a Food Bank table at the general meeting on June 7 as well as the table planned at her Jubilee garden party on June 8, giving members a choice of event at which to donate. She will provide LC with a list of items that the Food Bank is currently collecting. It will be necessary, and quite simple, to arrange for collection of donations by the Food Bank for between 3.45 & 4.00pm from the general meeting.  PG had attended the West Midlands u3a Inspiration Day on 22 March and the u3a Zoom session on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion on 23 March. She has provided notes and discussion points from these meetings for circulation.  PG had asked Interest Group Leaders for information about possible local venues for meetings to update the venue list on the website.  LB had been in contact with the Selly Oak Friends Meeting House and advised that there were 3 rooms of different sizes:  Large (currently used for eg yoga, music); cost £32 for 2 hrs (+£16 per add hr); currently available afternoons & some weekday evenings, not Saturdays  Medium (for about 30 people), with hatch to kitchen; cost £30 for 3 hrs  Small (for 15) with large hatch to kitchen; cost £28 for 3 hrs, £32 for 4 hrs; currently available Wednesday/Thursday/Friday after 2.15pm  All rooms have free access to the kitchen, the building is fully accessible, there is a long drive with parking and a pleasant garden which can be used.  VH offered to update the venue list on the website, by September, and LB will forward the information about the Selly Oak Meeting House to her. PG will also forward any information received from the IG Leaders. LB was willing to visit the SOFMH and would welcome anyone wishing to accompany her.   1. **Sharing fuel costs to attend Interest Groups**   This issue had been raised with PG by a member who benefited from lifts to attend an Interest Group and felt guilty that they weren’t contributing to costs.  There was much discussion about informal arrangements made for eg purchasing coffees or entrance fees for drivers and what amount per mile contribution might be appropriate.  BB noted that Interest Group Guidelines included advice on this issue, but the guidelines needed updating. She will circulate the existing guidelines to committee members as a first step.   1. **Non-emailers**   There are currently eight members who do not use email (“Non-emailers”).  It was agreed that non-emailers should provide their Interest Group Leaders with stamped,addressed envelopes for non-urgent contact, and that this requirement would be included in the Interest group Guidelines.  General u3a communication would continue to be posted to non-emailers.  HK would continue to post out the newsletter to non-emailers.   1. **Treasurer’s Report (JS)**   **General**  Bank balance £7510.  JS reported that the funds were keeping up and that renewals had been underestimated in the forecast budget.  **Wifi**  The issue of retaining the WIFI, which is not currently used, was discussed. AW has suggested that it should be retained, and would be needed for any hybrid meetings. (Though it is noted that the hall does not currently have the facilities for hybrid meetings.) The parish treasurer had been approached as to whether the church would contribute or takeover the provision of the WIFI. No other group uses the WIFI and the church is not prepared to takeover the costs. It was agreed that whilst finances remained healthy the WIFI should be retained and the position reviewed in 3 months.  **Treasurer’s role**  JS is moving to Bath 23 June, at which time the Treasurer’s role will be vacant.  ML would be willing to take on the role, but would want to relinquish her roles as Membership Secretary and looking after the website.  LC offered to approach a new member who was a retired accountant to see if they were willing to take on the treasurer’s role.   1. **Publicity material**   Dealt with under item 7   1. **Membership Secretary (ML)**   There are currently 277 members (compared to 300 before renewals were due).  ML expects a few late renewals. She noted that the renewal process had worked well; JS had kept her informed of bank renewals; there had been a few renewals received in the box provided at meetings and only 1 or 2 received through the post in recent days.   1. **Newsletter (HK)**   The deadline for contributions for the next newsletter is 25 June and HK expects to issue the newsletter the following week.  LB and LC offered to proof read this edition of the newsletter.  ML will send HK information she had received from VH about Jane Evans’ welfare role for the website, so that HK can include an item about Jane in the newsletter.  HK will review the dates for the diary section to omit information on events that have passed.   1. **AOB**   LC advised that AW had been invited to apply for the position of Vice Chair of the u3a Trust. The position would be available in September, nominations by the member’s group must be in next month.  The committee agreed to nominate AW, LC to contact him.  VH advised that Jane Evans had reported to her on a couple of issues:   * She had checked on the provision of disabled toilets at the church hall – the onus was on the church to provide them * She was aware that a member with mobility issues was awaiting an operation   The committee discussed the need for Jane to contact a member who had had a stroke, and whose husband was also poorly in hospital. It was anticipated that there might be difficulty in making telephone contact with the member, and PG offered to pass the daughter’s contact details to VH for Jane.  There had been a previous suggestion that the Crafting Group design a greetings card for Jane to send to members. It was agreed to widen the opportunity for a design by raising the issue in the newsletter.   1. **Date of next committee meeting**   Tuesday 21 June 2022 at 2pm at Bournville Quaker Meeting House.  The meeting ended at 16.00. | LC  PG  LC  LC  LC  JS  LC  JS  PG  ML  PG  PG  LC  VH,LB  PG  LB  BB  LC  LB, LC  ML  HK  LC  PG,VH  JE  HK |