

Minutes of Committee Meeting Wednesday, 5th April 2023

Present: Pauline Horton (Chair), Dorothy Hughes (Vice Chair), Dave Walton (Treasurer), Janet Hoskyn (Secretary), Steve Hoskyn, Lynda Andrews, Wendy Gardner, April Hammond, Sharon Smith, Adrian Edgington

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes

The minutes of 1st March were accepted, approved and signed by **PH**.

3. Matters Arising

JH brought up the matter of the display stands raised at the last meeting and said that the price for six A 4 plastic display stands would be approximately £26.00. These were suggested to replace the current stands as storage was an issue. However, **SS** stated that she was happy to store the boards.

JH also asked whether **PH** had sourced any fruit trees in remembrance of Chris Pringle and she said she would speak to FACT regarding this matter but that probably this was not the best time of year to plant them. **JH** said she would look into this.

4. March Monthly Meeting – Feedback

DH said that the speaker had been well received by members, gave a very interesting talk and that the new timetable was working well. **WG** raised concerns that the table issuing membership cards was not close enough to the payment table and it was agreed to rectify this at the next meeting.

5. April Monthly Meeting

It was noted that this will be the last time Colin Head would bring in the display boards and that **SS** had agreed to store them as in item 3.

Membership payments will be taken at this month's meeting and **SS** said that she would help **WG**. **AH** said that our speaker Constance Novis had contacted **SH** regarding the equipment needed for her presentation and **SH** had this in hand with the help of **DW**. She also stated that the presentation will be interactive and the speaker will require volunteers from the audience to help with this. **AH** will send the invoice for expenses to **DW**.

Doors will open at 1.15pm to give members who have not yet paid their membership fee an opportunity to do so. The meeting will start at 2pm and **LA** said she would provide the mystery object.

6. April Monthly Notices

LA will email the groups' news to **JH**.

At the last meeting Paula Washington had put out an appeal for unwanted toiletries. These she makes up into packs for the homeless.

WG will send through the Theatre news for inclusion.

7. May Monthly Meeting – Coronation of King Charles III

AH had contacted the speaker, Jim Stebbings, to ask if he could play some appropriate music for the occasion. He will include a set for an additional fee.

DW will print tickets for a free drink which will be given to members as they register and they will be asked to write their name on the back so that when they hand them in at the bar they will be entered into a free raffle. The prize will be Tea for Two at Sandringham.

Marion and Paula will also be organising a raffle.

DH will organise decorations for the tables.

The provision of food was discussed and it was decided to advise members that they could bring their own nibbles.

8. Correspondence

LA had received an email from the Trust who, in conjunction with Oxford University with funding from the Heritage Lottery fund are compiling a collection of everyday stories and objects from the Second World War. After a discussion it was decided to put their request to our members.

She had received correspondence from the Eastern Region regarding a pilot scheme to set up a council to advise the Board of any issues. It was felt that the Board were out of touch with the membership after the last AGM. The Eastern region is too big as it stretches from Norfolk down to Kent and Sussex making it unmanageable.

JH received correspondence from the Trust stating that they felt they were inundating officers with emails and in future would restrict this to twice a month unless they felt the need in the event of an emergency.

JH had also received an email from the Eastern Region regarding a network for u3as in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire with a view to setting this up and had booked on to the Zoom meeting on Thursday 13th April. She will report back at the next committee meeting.

SH had received an email from Colin Head saying he was giving up the position of Web Manager with immediate effect as the web page support will be transferring from Site Builder to SiteWorks. However, **DW** pointed out that this will be a gradual process and it could be up to a year before the transfer for our site.

PH had received an email from Fenland District Council regarding Prefit, Strength and Balance Classes at the George Campbell Sports Centre. These will be on Wednesdays from 2.30 – 3.30pm, £3.00pp per session. She will request posters and **JH** will advise members in the monthly notices.

9. Treasurer's Report

DW had attended a Zoom meeting on insurance which proved interesting. Valuables are covered but only if they are under lock and key. Another item covered was 'Taster' sessions, we are covered for up to three taster sessions for prospective new members, not one as stated in our constitution as we had previously been led to believe.

He confirmed that cover is Third Party only. He also said that Risk Assessments only have to be general, e.g. walkers only have to be advised to wear the appropriate clothing and shoes. Risk Assessments for Hire of Halls should be sent to **DH** or **JH**.

DW had received notification from NatWest that the March branch would be closing but that we could pay cheques into the Post Office but that in future we should encourage payments by card or bank transfer.

He provided the statement of accounts in which he pointed out that the difference in the balance and back balance was due to a number of cheques still needed to be paid into the bank.

He also stated that a member of the table tennis group had resigned and taken his table with him, leaving the group with just two tables. They will see if they can manage with two but **JH** will put a request in the notices to see if anyone has a secondhand one.

10. Membership Update

SH advised that as of 3rd April we had 272 members and 78 members still had to renew.

11. Groups Update

A discussion was held regarding the proposal of three new groups, First Aid, Litter Picking and Carers. For various reasons it was decided not to proceed with these three groups.

With regard to the Carers group it was felt that **WG** provided support for those who were unwell and also advised on organisations who could provide support.

LA reported that Geography and Armchair Travel had had to fold as it wasn't viable to continue.

At the last meeting a discussion was held as to whether the Classic Film Group should move venue but due to the financial support from the committee they will continue at the current venue.

The Table Tennis Group had also received financial support from the committee but a discussion took place as to whether a different venue could be found. **DW** had asked the Braza if they could provide storage for the tables and was awaiting a response.

AH said that she had spoken with Peter Gilman with a view to starting a 'Cultural' group in September. They would arrange visits to museums but members would have to make their own way to the venue. **LA** said it was a good idea but needed a different title to encourage members to join.

DW stated that if a carer attends a meeting or group with a member they are considered as 'one' for insurance purposes.

12. Speaker Update

AH confirmed that speakers had been booked for the whole of 2022 and that there may be a problem if the speaker in September, Lucy Allen, a stunt woman, has work on that day which would mean we would have to find a stand-in. **SH** said that we had permission from his neighbour, Chris Holt to put his name forward, as he had a presentation ready.

13. Welfare

WG said she had sent flowers to two members and had heard that Janet Sirr had had a fall and is not allowed to drive. **LA** said that in the past there had been a list of u3a members who volunteered to take members to hospital and that maybe we should ask for volunteers again. **AE** stated he knew of a group who volunteer for this task and he would provide their details to **WG**.

PH raised a concern of members becoming affected by dementia and how this can affect our u3a.

AH admitted that at present she is keeping an eye on one member and is concerned what will happen as she deteriorates. After a discussion it was decided that the responsibility is with the family of the member and that we should have details of their next of kin which should be held by **WG**.

14. Any Other Business

None

15. Date of Next Committee Meeting – Wednesday, 3rd May at 10 am