

Minutes of Committee Meeting Wednesday, 5th July 2023

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

1. Apologies

Sharon Smith

2. Minutes

The minutes of 7th June were accepted, approved and signed by **PH**.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. June Monthly Meeting – Feedback

AH commented that Barbara Meyer, the speaker, had contacted her for honest feedback. **DH** said the presentation was fine and that attendance had been low probably due to the hot weather. It was also noted that she had to compete with nature programmes on a similar subject on television and that it seemed that her presentation was more of a lecture than just an informative talk. There had been a complaint that the air conditioning wasn't available. This was due to the running costs. It was noted that the Braza hadn't increased their fees and we have a very good deal. It was also noted that we didn't have a mystery object and **LA** has one for the July meeting. **AE** apologised for being late but had an issue with the care of his wife.

5. July Monthly Meeting & Speaker Update

Brian Butcher from the National Trust will be giving a talk about Anne Boleyn – Saint or Sinner. **AH** says he has his own equipment and will just need a screen and microphone. He has asked for £62.00 for his expenses and would like donations for the National Trust. **AH** will pass his bank details to **DW**. Committee and volunteers to meet at 1.15pm to set up tables and chairs in the hall.

6. July Monthly Notices

JH will provide details of the July Monthly Meeting as in Item 5. Membership cards will be available for collection at the registration table. At this stage a discussion took place regarding membership cards for new members who joined after the original print run. **DW** said he would get a batch of blank cards printed.

WG said she will be on hand to take payment for transport (£20.00) for "42nd Street". She may also have details of an all exclusive weekend at the Potters resort at Hopton

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

7. August Monthly Meeting

AH said that Paul Barwick will be returning and this time his presentation will be "The Double Agent ZigZag". He was very popular last year and it is hoped that he will attract a larger audience as attendance in August tends to be low. She said she would have a word with him to keep off the subject of politics which caused a stir at his previous presentation. **JH** suggested that **AH** started a 'rolling' calendar for speakers and this has been taken on board.

8. October AGM

It was noted that preparations need to be made for the AGM. **DH** suggested that we should also ask for resolutions and nominations at the August meeting. **PH** gave her apologies as she will be unable to attend the AGM but stated that she had served three years as Chair and will stand down. **DH** asked if the committee would be willing to stand for the following year and all apart from **LA** said they would. **LA** has decided to stand down after many years of service to March u3a. It was noted that our constitution states that Chair and Secretary should serve for a maximum of three years and that the maximum length of service for Treasurer is six. **DW** will have served five years and will have to stand down in 2024 and that it would be a good idea to ask if any member would like to 'shadow' him with a view to taking on this role.

PH will invite members at the July meeting if anyone would like to attend the August committee meeting to find out what happens.

It was decided that the Annual Reports should include those from the Chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Group Coordinator only and not ask for reports from Group Leaders. **LA** suggested that she could ask Group Leaders for a photograph representing their group to enter into a competition to have the winning picture on the front of the reports with the two runners up featuring on the website. **DH** said that she is willing to stand for the position of Chair and asked for the agreement of the committee, who agreed unanimously.

A general discussion was held regarding the format of u3as, and it was felt that the role of the u3a had shifted since Covid and that the social element rather than learning was much more at the fore.

AH confirmed that the speaker would be Martin Lloyd and his subject 'Becoming a Famous Author'.

9. Correspondence

JH had received an email from Ann Smith regarding a lady attending the Practical Art Group, who said she was a member of Wisbech u3a. This she passed on to **SH** and a discussion was held as to whether this lady could attend and whether this would be appropriate as a reciprocal agreement between Wisbech and March. **LA** clarified the position stating that the Wisbech member could attend one group in March as part of the reciprocal agreement but if she then wanted to join another group she would have to become an Associate Member. However, Ann Smith should ask to see her existing membership card.

LA had been contacted by the leader of Gardening Group 2 regarding an outing she had arranged where four of her members had decided not to go, leaving her with the expense of entry fee and transport costs. Fortunately with **LA's** help three more members have signed up. **LA** will write a note for the noticeboard stating that all monies for trips should be paid at the time of booking and these should be paid to the treasurer. **DW** thanked **LA** for her input in resolving the situation.

SH had received an email from Sylvia Palmer who can no longer travel to our meetings stating that she will become a member of Wisbech u3a and that her membership here should lapse next year.

10. Treasurer's Report

DW presented the balance sheet and bank account details which showed £100 difference in groups accounts due to the transference of £100 from this account to the current account which will be paid for hire of the room at the Braza Club. Otherwise all is OK.

He had received a payment from a P Shore who is not a member here and this has been noted as a donation until it can be resolved.

He raised concerns regarding our income and expenditure until the end of the year, bearing in mind the forthcoming outgoings for hire of the Braza hall and room and the cost of speakers, we will have probably only £500 - £600 at the end of the financial year. We do have approximately £270.00 Gift Aid not claimed but we will have to consider raising the annual subscriptions. After a lengthy discussion it was decided to put forward a resolution at the AGM to raise subscriptions from £16.00 to £20.00 – A show of hands resulted in nine in agreement and one abstention.

Reintroducing a fee to attend monthly meeting was also discussed and it was decided that we should implement a charge of £1.00 per person to attend – this was deemed fair as **LA** stated that only a small proportion of the membership attended the monthly meetings. This was carried unanimously.

11. Membership Update

SH reported that membership had increased by one from last month to 242 and that membership with emails remained at 93%.

DH suggested that maybe we should have a 'recruitment drive' to encourage new members. **JH** suggested that we could have a stand at the Christmas Fayre in the library and she will contact them to find out the possibility.

12. Groups Update

WG suggested having a Ten Pin Bowling group which would meet at Guyhirn twice a month and **LA** will circulate details.

DW said the Table Tennis Group had obtained a secondhand table, nets etc., at a cost of £60.00 which we had agreed to fund.

LA said it was worth noting that it was a shame that members didn't attend groups bearing in mind the effort group leaders make. It was felt that people's habits had changed since Covid. Armchair Travel is one group that has been affected and has now folded.

13. Welfare

WG advised that Keith Jolly is now in a home in Chatteris and that Jill Osler is now home and has a carer in four time a day. She had also send a condolence card to Kathy Crowther from the committee after the death of her husband George. Other than that she continues with her supporting role to those who are ill or recently bereaved.

14. Storage

DH and DW had hoped that the Braza Club could provide us with some storage in their new extension but this was not to be. **DW** suggested that much of the equipment is now obsolete and that it is probably time to write it off. **DH** said that she would like to keep the games tables as she makes use of them.

15. Any other business

DH will make an announcement at the July meeting regarding a proposed day out in August.

AH said that there is a presentation from the National Trust on the 19th July at 7pm by the March Society, the subject – locations of films at National Trust Properties.

WG is hoping to receive details of an all exclusive weekend at Potters in Hopton, cost probably £400 per person which does not include transport costs.

LA said she had seen Chris Pringle's widower and he is happy that she has the fruit trees as a memorial for her service to March u3a at the FACT Community Garden.

16. Date of Next Committee Meeting – Wednesday, 2nd August at 10 am