

Minutes of Committee Meeting Wednesday, 3rd May 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 5th April were accepted, approved and signed by **PH**.

3. Matters Arising

PH advised that the two fruit trees (an apple and cherry) had been bought and donated to the FACT Community Garden with a plaque stating that these had been donated in memory of Chris Pringle, the first chairperson of March u3a.

SH reported that the digital presentation by Constance Novis last month hadn't worked as it had not been used or tested. In view of this **AH** will advise future speakers to contact **SH** to contact him to check their requirements and arrange a test if appropriate to avoid this happening.

4. April Monthly Meeting – Feedback

The speaker gave a verbal presentation due to the situation stated in Item 3. However, it appeared to be well received and members did join in the activities.

DH said she had timed the set up of tables and chairs at 17 minutes but it was agreed that putting these back in the appropriate places was more of a problem. **WG** said she has a plan and would copy this to make it available to other members of the committee. Apart from this it was felt that the new running order worked well.

5. May Monthly Meeting – Coronation of King Charles III

Doors will open at 1.40pm with the committee and volunteers meeting between 1.00 and 1.15pm to set up the hall. **LA** assisted by **AE** will register members attending and also give out tickets which will entitle members to a free drink at the bar and entry into the prize draw for 'Tea for Two at Sandringham'. **JH** will purchase the voucher.

Members will be advised that they can bring their own nibbles as we are not providing food in this instance.

DH has the table decorations and cups for water. **DW** will also liaise with the Braza to ensure they have extra bar staff.

The speaker this month is Jim Stebbings who will give a presentation on the Great American Songbook. He will be advised to liaise with **SH** as in Item 3 and he will begin his presentation at 2.30pm.

LA expressed concern that new members, although greeted and looked after by Sue Robinson at the first meeting, feel the subsequent meeting quite daunting. After a discussion, **AH** said that she would stand at the door and greet anyone who looked at a loss and that other members of the committee would meet and greet too. It was also decided that at the first meeting Sue Robinson should say if the new member could join her table at subsequent meetings.

SS will not be at this meeting and **PH** has arranged to collect the Notice Boards from her.

6. May Monthly Notices

JH will provide details of the May Monthly Meeting as in Item 5. Also, membership cards will be available for collection and any member who has not yet paid their subscription can do so at this meeting.

WG will have details for the Theatre Group.

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

7. June Monthly Meeting

AH advised that the speaker for June will be Barbara Meyer who will talk about Norfolk and Lincolnshire Seals,

8. Correspondence

An email had been sent to **DH** from the Area Library Manager stating there had been a complaint made about the noise of the Current Affairs Group. It was also mentioned that someone had overheard a discussion which they objected to. **PH** investigated the complaint and could find no evidence of the matters listed in the email. She was also very unhappy regarding the wording of the email and replied in this vein and asked why it had taken ten days for the matter to be reported. The Library Manager replied and appears to have backed down on the complaint.

It was decided by the group to find new premises and they have subsequently moved to St Peter's Church Hall. It will be held on the same date and time. **SH/DW** will amend the website accordingly.

LA pointed out that it can now be an offence to speak out in a public place.

JH advised that she had received notification of the Third Age Trust AGM, which is to be held on the 18th October and that they are requesting one representative from each u3a to nominate someone to vote. **JH** will do this.

JH had also attended a Zoom meeting regarding the proposed Bedfordshire/Cambridgeshire network where it was decided that while a good idea it was too big an area and that it would be better to have informal meetings between smaller 'clusters', i.e., March, Chatteris, Wisbech, Ramsey, Huntingdon and Ely.

9. Treasurer's Report

DW advised that the accounts for last year had been approved at a cost of £100.00.

He had not yet completed the annual return on which the amount of capitation is paid. The number of members requiring TAM has dropped to 30 but we have been billed for £500.

He had also applied for a Debit Card but this was declined due to lack of signatures but one was required to enable us to pay cash in via the Post Office.

10. Membership Update

SH said that his report showing 232 was now out of date as three more members had paid since it had been printed.

It was noted that Barry Wales should be an Honorary Member.

11. Groups Update

LA advised that there had been some controversy regarding a new member who had expressed an interest in joining the Digital Photography group and as a result Nick Harvey had resigned as Group Leader. Andy Cole has stepped as leader until January 2024.

The Table Tennis Group are trying to source a third table and **DW** stated that help could be provided for the expenditure.

12. Website Update

SH/DW have agreed to meet up with Colin Head to have a refresher on the administration of the website and then update the minutes.

13. Speaker Update

As in Item 5 and Item 7.

14. Welfare

WG reported that two members had sadly passed away, Jean Rapetti and David Matthews and that sympathy cards had been sent to the families. She also said that she had received details of Jean's funeral which she will circulate. Keith Jolley is out of hospital and a get well card has been sent. She also said she needs to buy more Get Well and Sympathy cards.

15. Any Other Business

LA said that she had noticed that March Discussion site included the u3a 2004 brochure.

16. Date of Next Committee Meeting – Wednesday, 7th June at 10 am