

Minutes of Committee Meeting Wednesday, 6th September 2023

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

1. Apologies

Pauline Horton, April Hammond

DH welcomed Andy Cole, Bev Cole and Pat Jones who are prospective committee members and were attending the meeting to observe.

2. Minutes

The minutes of 2nd August were accepted, approved and signed by **DH**.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. August Monthly Meeting – Feedback

It was felt that this meeting went well and that the speaker, Paul Barwick, gave a very interesting talk which was well accepted by members. **LA** stated that 57 members had attended as well as some 'tasters'. Our thanks go to Sue Robinson for looking after the prospective new members. Some concern was voiced as to the number of New Members Packs available but **DW** assured everyone that there were plenty available.

5. September Monthly Meeting & Speaker Update

JH had received notification from **AH** that Lucy Allen would be attending as speaker for this meeting but that she would check with **AH** to ensure that she had a back up if Lucy couldn't attend at the last minute. **AH** had also advised that she would need the laptop, projector and screen and had advised **DW** accordingly. Lucy will be arriving by train and will also bring her invoice and bank details. **AH** will be unable to attend this meeting and **JH** will greet Lucy on her arrival.

AH had also confirmed to **JH** that she had started to book speakers for 2024: Kevin Rogers has been booked for January and will talk about music and memorabilia from 1960 -1965; April - Alan Moser will speak about life in Fleet Street and Paul Barwick will speak on the body in the bag in June.

There will be our quarterly raffle this month. Marion and Paula are aware and **DW** has provided them with funds for prizes. **DH** thanked them for their hard work on arranging the raffles. No decision was made regarding the mystery object for this month,

6. August Monthly Notices

JH will provide details of the September Monthly Meeting as in Item 5. She will also ask for donations of suitable raffle prizes.

WG advised that the closing date is the end of September for bookings for Pretty Woman and will be on hand to take payment and would need the Sum-up machine. **DH** asked if we should have a second machine in the event of this running out of charge but **DW** said he ensured it was charged after every use.

SH suggested that we ask members who do not already have Gift Aid and were UK tax payers if they would be willing to claim.

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

7. October AGM and Monthly Meeting

DH explained to the prospective new committee members that before we could start the AGM we would have to establish that we had a quorum, i.e., 20% of the total membership (49 at present) and that if this was not the case then the meeting would have to be postponed until the following month. The fact that we now have a speaker for these meetings encourages members to attend.

JH confirmed that so far only two proposals had been received, one to slightly amend the wording of the constitution and the other to raise the annual membership fee. A general discussion was held as to whether to raise this to £20 from April 1st 2024 with the option of a compromise of £18, or not to put an amount. **LA** said that both options could be rejected and **DH** suggested we should propose £20 and asked for a show of hands – this was carried unanimously. If this was not carried at the meeting **DH** stated we could hold an emergency Special General Meeting at a later date.

Any other proposals will need to be with the secretary by the close of the September meeting.

The subject of members without email was brought up and **LA** said that some u3as charged these members for postage. A discussion was held as to whether we should apply this to our u3a but no decision was made.

DH said she had two ladies who would be willing to count votes should a ballot be required in the event of having two nominees for the same position.

JH/SH reported that they had the Annual Reports in hand and that these would be ready for distribution week commencing 2nd October. **LA** had received only one entry for the photographic competition and she will buy the prize for this winner. Andy Cole will send the winning entry to **JH**.

DH will ask **AH** for the speaker to be advised that his talk will begin at 2.35pm at the latest.

8. Correspondence

DH had received various updates from the Third Age Trust via **JH** who had dealt with them.

JH also stated that she had received details of the three candidates who have put themselves forward for the position of Trustee for the East of England and that she would be forwarding these to the rest of the committee so that a decision could be made on who to vote for.

9. Treasurer's Report

DW stated that all accounts had been paid and explained the balance sheet to the prospective new committee members, that we had three accounts £1863.54 in the current account, £1053.99 for the groups account, Trips and Events (theatre group) £189.63 and the petty cash covered the expenditure required for raffle prizes. He hopes that the balance in the current account will cover our expenditure until the end of the financial year bearing in mind we still have six months outlay, with room hire for the committee meetings at £10.00 per month, Hall hire at the Braza £100.00 per month together with the monthly cost of speakers. The groups account is fine but the Table Tennis group have struggled and have been subsidised so that they could buy a secondhand table.

He also explained the reason for the proposal to increase the annual subscription and read a passage from his annual report which explained that we have used our reserve as we had waived the fee for the 2020/2021 year due to the lockdown when we didn't meet but we still had to pay the capitation fee to the Trust.

Pat Jones has come forward and is willing to shadow **DW** and he will speak to her at a later date.

LA commented how she found it easy to pay monies into the Post Office bearing in mind she was apprehensive about doing so, but the new paying in books were a great help. She also said that the Braza will exchange coins taken for the entry fee at the monthly meetings. **WG** said she needed bags for coins and **AE** said these could be purchased at W H Smiths.

LA advised that she had received a phone call from **PH** who was cross because she hadn't been advised about the purchase of a new printer and it had not been discussed in committee. **DW** said he would take full responsibility and **DH** said she was asked and would also take responsibility. With hindsight **PH** should have been consulted but all agreed that the purchase had been necessary as the old printer wasn't fit for purpose and could not be repaired.

10. Membership Update

SH reported that membership remained at 243 and that 20 members do not have email. Of the seven new members this year only three have email addresses. He then stressed that we had lost 100 members due to the pandemic which has seriously impacted our annual income.

The subject of recruitment was discussed and the fact that we need to recruit younger members. **JH** said she wondered if the raising of the retirement age had an impact and **DH** said she thought the

u3a too rigid in that only retired and semi-retired are allowed to join. It was also felt that the organisation should move with the times. Pat Jones said that people have the wrong impression of the organisation, that they think it is solely for education and appears very stuffy. **SH** said that social contact is far more important as this also brings health benefits to the older generation. **WG** suggested that a sub committee be set up to find ways to promote our u3a and it was decided that this should consist of **DH, SH, JH, WG** and **SS** and that this first meeting would be on Thursday, 19th October.

11. Groups Update

LA reported that the Quilting Group's display at the Library had been successful and that the Photography Group will be having a display of their work in its place.

The suggested Music group has eight or nine members who are interested but so far no one has volunteered to lead this group.

SH said he knew someone who will be able to teach guitar and will give their contact details to the group leader when one is established.

12. Welfare

WG had nothing to report.

13. December Meeting

AH has booked Jim Stebbings to provide a programme of Christmas music.

It was decided that we should repeat the format of our last Christmas meeting and charge £5.00 per person which would entitle them to a free drink at the bar with their tickets going into a separate draw for a special raffle prize. Also it was decided that we should just have nibbles rather than sausage rolls etc., a mince pie and Christmas cake. **DH** has table cloths, plates and decorations. Marion and Paula will be asked to organise a seasonal raffle.

14. Any other business

DW said that he is impressed that **AH** is keeping the cost of the speakers down.

15. Date of Next Committee Meeting – Wednesday, 4th October at 10 am