

Minutes of Pontesbury and Rea Valley u3a Committee Meeting

4th April 2022

1. Present: Janet Walsh (chair), Hugh Scriven, David Taylor, Doreen Thomas, Sue Anderson, Bob Boden, Merle Traves and Peter Traves

2. Apologies: Susan Lockwood and John Rice

3. Minutes of meetings on 7 February and 7 March

Both sets of minutes were agreed to be an accurate record of the meetings.

4. Matters arising

Janet reported that she has put John in touch with Colin, our auditor.

5. Two minute items

(i) The Southport Flower Show is offering tickets to u3a members at a reduced rate. This offer will be advertised in the next Newsletter and on Facebook.

(ii). It was agreed that the AGM be held on July 20th via zoom.

6. Reports and updates

(i) Membership

To date there have been 62 confirmed payments of annual fees for 2022-23. At the end of the financial year there were 166 members on the list. Two members have confirmed they are leaving and one more is likely to leave but this is still to be confirmed. There are around 100 members who have yet to pay or yet to have their payment confirmed. Others may leave but there are a number of prospective new members who have expressed interest in joining. Peter needs to get direct access to Bac reports to speed up his record keeping. Since its foundation our u3a has had 242 members which is a mark of its impact on the local population. Peter will wait a week or so and then send a reminder out to those who have not yet paid.

(ii) Finance

A finance report was sent to each member of the committee. Janet will ascertain from John the current breakdown of centrally held and group held monies.

(iii) Publicity

Sue was congratulated on the quality of the Newsletters she has produced. It was agreed that any hard copies of the Newsletter would be published in black and white. It is hoped that Bev will print off a copy for display in the library. An update on the number of hits so far recorded on our website was delivered. It was recognised that we need to establish some protocols for updating the website. Sue volunteered to establish a common format for Interest Group entries and Merle will check to see which group entries need updating.

(iv) Groups

Pickleball has found a temporary venue at the FE College while exams take place at Mary Webb. Play Reading has folded as a group because the numbers have dropped too low to make it viable. The Gardening Group will need to be relaunched as no one in the current group is prepared to coordinate despite the support Merle has given them. The set up of the Photography group has had to be delayed. Hugh is looking to relaunch the Drawing

and Painting group and Cafe Society is considering relocating to the Callow Room at Minsterley Parish Hall. The Geology group is thriving with thirteen members.

7. Open Meeting - Wednesday 20 April

The April meeting will take place at Minsterley Parish Hall and will take the form of a 'Show and Tell' event with members bringing along interesting and unusual objects. It was agreed that refreshments will be available throughout the afternoon. Peter agreed to sign members in. The postponed Curlew Meeting is likely to take place now in the Autumn.

8. Future Open Meetings

It was agreed that there would not be an Open Meeting in May. On 15th June Natalie Cummings will present a talk on the history of a violin which has been played among other places in a German concentration camp and this talk will include a brief video from BBC's *The Repair Shop* where the violin was refurbished. A link to the video could be included in a future Newsletter. July will be the AGM and there will be no meeting in August. September will focus on the 40th Anniversary of the u3a. The November meeting will be a Christmas themed event. Bob is planning to get Alison Utting to come back to us early in 2023 to talk about her new book on Agnes Hunt. Bob's suggestion that we invite Wem members to Alison's talk was welcomed.

9. 40th Anniversary

Merle informed the meeting that a number of groups have agreed to make a contribution to this event, some in the form of a presentation and some in the form of a display. She will be meeting with the coordinators of these groups. Bob and Hugh are to consider whether our existing projector is suitable or whether we could request the loan of the Congregational Church projector. Doreen agreed to book the hall for the meeting. It was agreed that we need to return to the detailed planning of this item in order to ensure a smooth well-organised event.

10. Request for u3a to provide member for Minsterley Parish Hall committee

Janet volunteered for this role on a temporary basis. U3a members to be asked if they are interested.

11. Minsterley Show representation - Saturday 20 August 2022

David volunteered to contact the show's organiser to see if a free stall would be available again. There was discussion about whether we should look to share a stall with FOPL if they are being represented this year. It was agreed that something like a tombola might attract more interest to our stall. The question was raised as to whether or not we should be represented at the Vron Gate fete and it was agreed not to take this up this year but to consider it for 2023.

12. Next meeting - Monday 9 May (2 May is Bank Holiday)

Meeting to be held at **1pm NOT 2pm** at the Pavilion.