



RETFORD U3A COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday 2nd May 2023 at 2.00 p.m
At Community Room, Morrisons

MINUTES

Present: Pippa Ramsay (Chair), Pam Mann (secretary), Patricia Everitt (Treasurer), Pat Lockett (Membership Secretary), Angela Grant (Speaker finder), Carol Knowles and Caroline Marsh (joint group co-ordinators), Sue Paul (Trustee), Bryan Gladstone (Vice-chair), Andrew Young (Webmaster).

Apologies

There were none.

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting

These were signed by Pippa Ramsay, Chair, as a true and accurate record.

2. Matters Arising

The preparation of a speech which any member of the Committee could give to an outside group was postponed until the next meeting.

3. General Meeting

The last meeting was the AGM for 2023 for which the Minutes appear elsewhere.

The Speaker Finder made a note of the two people whose names would be held on file until next year's bookings are made. Kathryn Brooks from the Commonwealth War Graves and Annette Mackenzie from "Owlin Mad."

The Speaker for the next meeting would be Bonney Baggaley from Retford Hospice.

As new equipment had been bought for Committee use, Andy Paul would require a photo of the serial numbers for his Inventory records.

4. Financial Report (see attached)

The groups' accounts were diminishing due to trips that were booked earlier now taking place and coaches needing to be paid for.

5. Interest Groups Report

Co-groups should be the point of contact for group leaders.

Beginners French has been put back to September, until a suitable group is available with no interruptions for holidays.

Andy Merrick is interested in setting up a Classical Music group.

There may be a new Current Affairs group in the offing.

Group Leaders should be welcoming to new members joining. Pat Lockett had a poor experience when joining a group for the first time. A Group Leaders' coffee morning was suggested as a way of advising leaders of the need to welcome and introduce new members.

A new Groups Contact List was distributed by Carol and Caroline. This replaces the out of date list from last year.

It was decided that any group which required the service of a paid Leader, in for example, Yoga or Tai Chi, the paid Leader would be like a paid Speaker at General Meetings and in some larger groups, but the group would need to be self sufficient and its members pay a fee to cover all costs.

Carol and Caroline are to produce an article for the Not So Idle Times about possible new Groups and ask people to contact them if interested, especially in paid for Groups.

The Treasurer asked if Singing group wanted new members or would they need to ask the Committee for financial support as their numbers have dwindled?

6. Newsletter

Christine Cook has returned to edit Not So Idle Times after taking time out for surgery.

7. Website

Andrew Young explained that there were too many different e-mail addresses, many of which were out of date so he wanted to simplify the system. He said he would like all of the Committee and Group Leaders to register on Beacon. The Committee members should let him know via the Vice Chair what rights they would require to use Beacon.

Personal e-mails could continue to be used for the leaders of small groups to contact their members. Committee members should also let the Vice Chair know what tag-hosting e-mails they would like to use, e.g. secretary@retford-u3a.org.uk.

Pat Lockett asked Andrew whether extra security was needed for newly purchased laptops. Andrew said that he believed Microsoft's own built in security should be adequate.

8. Publicity

Carol and Caroline said they had a sample speech from 3rd Age Trust, which could be given to an outside group e.g the macular society. They would bring it for discussion at the next meeting.

9. Communication

Pippa Ramsay and Pat Lockett attended a recent Notts Network meeting at Ravenshead and found it interesting. One question raised was How can we accommodate people's special needs, e.g. if they are deaf or need to use a wheelchair? Pat will be Retford's representative to the Notts Network. In the past a recommendation was made that if a wheelchair user could not gain access to the private house being used for a meeting, it may be that the wheelchair user could become the host and use his/her home for the meetings.

10. Membership Update

454 in total, made up of 426 full members, 19 Associates and 15 Honorary members. The reduction in numbers is due to membership lapse where members have not paid new subscriptions for the coming year. The matter was being dealt with by the membership secretary.

A New Members' Coffee Morning was proposed for 24th May. A suggestion that free coffees should be provided was discouraged by the Committee as it would set a precedent which it might not be possible to continue with.

Pat Lockett suggested adding to the Membership Application form a question about special needs.

11. Welfare

No items for discussion.

12. Events

The next Big Night Out would be on 1 July and there were a few places still available. These would be advertised in the Newsletter. Any surplus funds could be carried forward to subsidise any future shortages for future meals. At the time of the meeting, the final cost was not yet known.

13. Any Other Business

Inventory items would become the responsibility of 1 or more Committee members.

Any old computers could be cleaned up by Martin, the tech guy, who would assess whether they were still usable.

Notices for Appeals for Ukrainian Refugees are to be put on the Noticeboard and announced at the next General Meeting.

14. Date of Next Meeting.

6th June 2023 at 2 p.m.

The meeting ended at 4.20 p.m.

Signed by Pippa Ramsay, Chair

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Date.....

