



Membership number 822/801/10

RETFORD U3A COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday 5th September 2023 at 2.00 p.m.
At Community Room, Morrisons

MINUTES

Present: Pippa Ramsay (Chair), Bryan Gladstone (vice chair), Pam Mann (secretary), Patricia Everitt (treasurer), Pat Lockett (membership secretary), Caroline Marsh (groups co-ordinator), Sue Paul (social), Lorraine Sulman and Karen Woodcock (Speaker finders)

Apologies: Carol Knowles

1. Minutes of the Previous meeting

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

2. Matters arising

Pam Mann read out a slight alteration to the wording of item 4 to clarify that the Committee had approved the Treasurers proposal in regard to financial support for the Singing Group.

3. General Meeting

The new fire safety policy, to comply with the requirements of the Well, was discussed and it was decided that the table for the Membership Secretary would be moved to join the other tables at the far left of the Well (as you go in) and a Signing In table would be put near the main entrance door. Signing In sheets would be needed as well as a Signing Out sheet for early leavers. Pam would bring a Perspex stand with a suitable instruction e.g. PLEASE SIGN IN HERE. **Pam to action.** The Watercolour Group would be exhibiting at October G.M.

Concern had been expressed over the clarity of the central screen in the Well. Photos did not show very clearly and the side screens were often obscured by equipment on the stage. Pippa agreed to contact the Well and ask if progress had been made on replacing either the projector or screen. **Pippa to action.**

The next speaker would be Bonny Baggaley talking about Bassetlaw Hospice.

4. Financial Report (see attached)

Number 1 account (the business account) had a balance of over £15,000, as the Capitation Fee payable to 3rd Age Trust had not yet been required to be paid. Numbers 2 and 3 accounts (Interest Group accounts) had a balance of £6502 as their summer trips had been paid for.

The Treasurer was sending a Grant Application to John Lewis, the regional rep. for passing on to 3rd Age Trust. This was to cover the costs of the Coffee Afternoon to promote Retford u3a to the general public.

5. Interest Groups report

A new Air-Fryer Group was being set up, with both male and female members.

Bassetlaw Action Group were keen to reach as many older people as possible so Caroline would be writing to group leaders to ask if they would like a short presentation at one of their meetings. **Caroline to action.**

Caroline had investigated the Tai Chi/Mindfulness groups in Nottinghamshire and found they had no paid tutors. Paying tutors appeared to go against the ethos of the u3a movement and have implications for employment law. However, Worksop has a Tai Chi group and Caroline was going to enquire if their tutor would care to take a group in Retford. Bryan thought Cotgrave might have a paid tutor so Caroline would investigate this further.

Olive Tree Legal, based in Retford, had been asked about a talk on Financial Planning in later life and they said they would be delighted to talk to members about it. The committee considered a local firm would be preferable to Silvertime Legal, who had made enquiries a few months ago. The talk would be held on Monday, 11 September in the afternoon and a charge of £3.50 would be made for the room. 9 people were able to make the date, which coincided with Olive Tree's availability.

6. Newsletter

The committee was of the opinion that any trips in late August/early September would be written up by the Group Leader.

Caroline would write a piece for the Newsletter on the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion policy. Also the Safeguarding policy. **Caroline to action.**

7. Website

Andrew Young was currently on holiday.

8. Publicity

Bryan was of the opinion that Social Media ought to be used more to reach a younger audience. Pat Lockett had already set up a Facebook page for Retford u3a. He suggested that it needed a link to Retford u3a's existing website. We needed pictures to illustrate the things that we do. We also needed a moderator to take down any negative comments.

Pam offered to upload the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion etc. policies to the Website. **Pam to action.**

9. Communications

See Publicity above.

10. Membership

Total membership 502. 465 were full members, 15 Honorary members, and 22 Associates.

The membership secretary had investigated the possibility of using Beacon for people to make their membership payments but then they would have to go through Paypal, which would charge the u3a for such payments. The Treasurer would look at the possibility of payments by BACS.

11. Welfare

The committee was saddened to hear that Angela Grant's father had passed away. Angela was a former Speaker Finder who had to relinquish the role in order to care for her father.

12. Events

At the Open Afternoon on 22nd September, 8 groups would be represented. The Gardening Group would be showing a presentation. Other groups would include the Writers, the Singing Group and Snooker. Volunteers would be handing out leaflets on the Thurs, Fri and Sat before the event. Information packs would be given out on the day, to include a membership form and free pen. Pam would bring de-caff tea on the day. An assessment after the event was necessary to justify the expenditure we were applying for in our Grant application. How many new attendees, new joiners, existing member attendees etc. Patricia and Bryan would try to make the calculations.

The Big Night Out was now fully booked.

13. Any Other Business

Pat Lockett would be holding a new members' Coffee Morning on 14th September in the morning.

Caroline would ask Group Leaders if they knew of anyone who wanted any of the items which had been reported to Andy Paul as no longer of use. A final date for replying would be given after which such items would be written off and removed from the Inventory.

Caroline to action.

On future Agendas/Minutes a Speaker Finder's Update should be included. **Pam to action.**

14. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd October, 2023.

The meeting ended at 4.00 p.m.

Signed by:

Date: 3 Oct 2023

P.M. Ramsay (chair)

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