



Membership No. 822/801/10

RETFORD U3A COMMITTEE MEETING
Tuesday 5 March 2024 at 2.00 p.m.
At Hallcroft Community Centre

MINUTES

Present: Pippa Ramsay (Chair), Bryan Gladstone (Vice-chair), Pamela Mann (Secretary), Sue Paul (Social Sec), Patricia Everitt (Treasurer), Lorraine Sulman (Speaker Finder), Pat Lockett (Membership Sec)

Apologies: Carol Knowles, Caroline Marsh (Group Co-ordinators)

1. Minutes of the previous Meeting

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

2. Matters Arising

At the AGM, it would be advisable to have a member already prepared to propose the re-election of the Committee as no-one would be standing down this year.

When details of the AGM are sent to Members, they will need to have an Agenda, the Minutes of the last meeting, and details of the amendments to the Constitution so they are able to vote on these. They need to be sent so they are received by 4th April.

3. General Meeting

90 People attended the general meeting in February and enjoyed the talk about the Rufford Poachers delivered by Sam Millard. The Chair pointed out that it would have been nice to get a photo of him at the Well, and it is hoped that future speakers will be photographed to go in Not So Idle Times, Newsbites and on our Facebook page. Pat Lockett had obtained a photo of Sam Millard giving his talk to a different group and had put it on the facebook page.

4. Speaker Finder Report

The programme was full up to June 2024, but it was as well to book future speakers asap as the popular ones seemed to get booked up early. Lorraine had received some recommendations from a Speaker Finder's PSG. It was suggested that we could have one meeting, perhaps in November, where we could showcase the groups in Retford, having performances by the Singing Group, Making Music Group, Poetry Reading etc. The art work of the Watercolour group could run on a continuous loop as at the Open Afternoon in the library last year. Members would be encouraged to bring along a non member to find out what the u3a was about.

5. Financial Report (see attached)

The Treasurer reported that all was as she expected for this time of the year. The Number 1 account was very healthy due to members renewing their subscriptions. The Groups' accounts were healthy due to the payments for summer trips coming in. When asked about a new or re-conditioned laptop for Christine Cook, she said that up to £350 per laptop could be made available with Christine's taking priority.

The Treasurer would be contacting the Co-op Community Champion with a view to getting a grant for equipment. We also needed a new Information pack to boost publicity.

6. Group Co-ordinators Report

Although Carol and Caroline were absent from the meeting, the Committee wished to thank them for their hard work in producing a Group Leader's pack as well as helping new groups to get started.

7. Newsletter

The deadline for Retford Life's article was around the 8th of the month prior to publication. So 8th March for April's edition, 8th April for May edition etc. On occasions, Bryan might be unable to do it due to holidays.

8. Website

Sitebuilder is in the process of being replaced by Siteworks, which will cost £50 per annum when running. Andrew Young will attend the next Committee meeting to update the committee on progress so far.

9. Publicity

Pat Lockett pointed out that we need a Publicity Strategy to tie together all the various ad hoc ideas that have so far arisen. (1) Ask people how they heard about the u3a. (2) Liaise with organisations having pre-retirement courses to put our publicity pack in with the other literature employees might receive or even talking to people about the u3a and what they might get out of it. (3) List where our leaflets have been placed. (4) Hold events to publicise the u3a in Retford. (5) Send leaflets out with Retford Life. These were a few of the suggestions. Pat and Patricia agreed to liaise with Carol and Caroline to see what might be possible and affordable.

10. Communications

Carol and Pam had attended the Well Community Projects AGM, although the discussion was mostly concerned with projects which the Well organised and ran, whereas the u3a is merely a partner and user of the Well's physical amenities.

11. Membership

Retford currently has 543 members of which 501 are fully paid up members, 18 are honorary members and 24 associates.

12. Welfare

We had received a request for someone from the Philosophy group to visit a gentleman who was in a care home in Retford. It was pointed out that the Philosophy group was already full with a waiting list to join, so it was agreed that Carol and Caroline were to be contacted to ask the Group Leader (a) if anyone was willing to set up another group and (b) whether they might either visit or phone the gentleman to explain the set up of the u3a and perhaps invite him along if his daughter or other responsible adult could get him to group meetings.

Pat Barnett, who is leader of Singing Group, has had to cancel her group for the moment due to illness. The committee wished her a speedy recovery.

13. Events

The Big Night Out in April is currently full. The next will be 3 months later ie, July.

14. Any Other Business

The Treasurer will be unavailable during all of May.

15. Date of Next Meeting will be 2nd April 2024.

The meeting closed at 3.55 p.m.

Signed by the Chair

Date

.....