

Minutes of the Rutland U3A Committee Meeting 13 January 2022

Present: Ros Kenny (RK) Bob Bennett (BB) Hedley Greaves (HG), Lucy Marsland (LM), Sue Morecroft (SM) Wanda Allan (WA) Bryan Howard (BH) and Sharon Pratt (SP)

There were no apologies for absence

Minutes of the meeting of 11 November 2021 - agreed as read. Signed by Chairman

Matters arising and actions - RK put something in newsletter re: the speakers and that Lancaster University are transcribing Humphrey Davy's diaries, and BB let the Science and Technology group know. Leicester and Rutland Network needed new committee members - no one has been forthcoming. BB is doing calculations about increasing subscriptions. SP put an item in the newsletter about the February meeting. SP and BH have emailed Group Leaders/Coordinators who have been reminded via email about their role in protecting members' data. LM ensuring that all new members, and renewing members in March, get the information reminding them about the data we keep and the need to protect this.

Chairman

Chairman's Report - A new Harborough Welland U3a have been formed - amalgamating two groups as they have had difficulty getting Executive Committee members. **ACTION: RK to ask again at the next meeting for folk to join our Committee.**

February meeting - We can go back to the Victoria Halls as Rutland Kino are not ready to take up residency there. Possible that we may get 6 months to a year at The Victoria Halls. RK has cancelled VAR and contacted Paul who will do the refreshments for us for 75 pounds. Paul to liaise with Mike Pearson re: putting out chairs, etc. All the audio equipment and screen are still in situ. **ACTION: RK to ask Mike Pearson to match the Art Society reduced rent of 170 pounds and negotiate with Paul re: cost of providing refreshments.**

HG suggested that in the Events Column on the webpage we should say where it is going to be held. This will be clearer. **ACTION: RK to ask Phil to say all events at Victoria Hall.**

Treasurer

Treasurers Report - We are now fully compliant with the requirements of the TAT. As a result of this compliance, the Art group and Wind Ensemble groups have decided that they preferred to be independent of the Ru3a. The deposit account has 4 payments a year of 14p but costs 60 pounds a year so BB is in contact with HSBC to get this account closed as it is no longer financially viable. The Social Account is equally unviable in view of the expected lack of activity. There is no outstanding activity on this account as Diane Case has cancelled Carousel and the Christmas lunch monies have all gone through. The Social Committee can still operate but the money will go through the main account rather than the social account. It is easy administration for BB to close this account. All agreed that this is very sensible especially as all Paypal payments have to go through the main account and then would have to be transferred into the social account. **ACTION: BB**

BB asked that all of us encouraged our members to pay online to keep costs down, e.g. that there is a charge of 40p for each cheque presented.

We have 17,000 pounds but only need 5,000 to keep in case we have to fold. We need to do something worthwhile and appropriate with this money. BB asked that we all give this some thought, e.g. renewing equipment like a laptop. RK pointed out that it is the Queen's Jubilee year and she suggested that we provide a bit of a bash for our members at the June meeting. **ACTION:** All agreed - good way to create publicity; put on Facebook, etc.

Speaker Secretary WA has speakers booked speakers for this year and having had feedback she feels that she has a better feel for what people want. She thinks that we may need to pay more to get speakers who are more aspirational/educational not just tickling folks' funny bones. Richard Adams is the speaker in September. Shame that there were only 37 people watching the speaker on Zoom this month.

Unanimously agreed that WA's budget is increased. **ACTION: WA and BB**

HG suggested that WA gets a list from Probus to increase her range of speakers.

Membership Secretary

Early payers and new members - LM acknowledges people joining u3a at this time of year and puts them on the list officially in March so that she does not send out a renewal. Mean to ask for another yearly subscription after joining for only one month. All agreed that was the right thing to do. **ACTION:** LM

LM asked that we have 2 card readers available on renewals day. BB would like have folk just using the card readers but there would be too long a queue. The expectation is that the number of cheques used will decline in future. People can also pay by bank transfer.

ACTION: BB asked for HG to see if we can get 2 more card readers. BB to create a cartoon explaining to members the advantages of transferring cash electronically or using the card reader.

Groups Coordinator

The Wind Ensemble group has left Rutland u3a. Currently there are 73 groups. Fay Taylor has taken over from Sue McLoughlin as the Leader of the Bus Pass Travels Group.

February meeting - 9.30am set up at Victoria Hall. Social Gathering and Bring and Buy stall. SP to bring badges for Group Leaders. Mingling and sign up sheets available.

ACTION: All to assist. RK to provide traybake cakes for the monthly meeting.

Social - Carousel has sadly been cancelled owing to lack of interest. Most cheques were shredded with members' approval and the three folk who had paid online were refunded.

Data Protection

BH to check and update the GDRP policy statement on website.

Digital

Digital Eagles - Beginners and intermediate sessions are being well attended at Barclays and enjoyed. **ACTION: SM to advertise these sessions in the newsletter.**

Facebook should be used for advertising events. People are welcome to attend a monthly meeting and attend a group meeting as a taster before joining Ru3a. LM has a visitors book at the membership desk so new folk can make themselves known. Hopefully we will have a welcome committee but SP and RK are happy to meet prospective new folk for a

coffee so they will recognise a friendly face if they come to Victoria Halls. **ACTION: SM will tell Dawn Swan who has enquired about coming along to Ru3a.**

Secretary

ACTION: BB to ask TAT for the second year running for a paper copy of the copyright licence as we have paid for it. It would be good to know the scope of the copyright certificate.

AOB:

BB had two items on the direct debit which need refunding. **ACTION: HG to chase this up so it is sorted before the end of the financial year.**

LM asked re: laptop. RK said that there is no rush to replace as windows 10 is good until 2025.

Date of next meeting - 14:30 Thursday 10 March at The Lord Nelson