

MINUTES OF THE 113th COMMITTEE MEETING OF STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH u3a, HELD IN METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, LONGTON, AT 2pm ON THURSDAY 10th August 2023.

PRESENT

Andrew Devin	Chairman
Keith Ward	Vice-Chairman
Phil Rowley	Business Secretary/Publicity Officer
Beverley Maher	Entertainments Co-ordinator
Diane Ellis	Catering Officer

1. APOLOGIES

Lynne Stevenson, Alan Stevenson, Kevin Ford, Pauline Williams, and Joe Neilson.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last committee meeting held on 13th July 2023 were approved, and signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a Matters relating to the u3a Trust - National

(i) A nationally co-ordinated event is to take place on Friday 22nd September, titled "Alfresco in Autumn." The Trust is encouraging any event that takes the fun of learning within a u3a branch, outdoors. We have been asked to inform the Trust if we have any plans (which we do not).

(ii) The Trust is organising a UK-wide festival, to take place on 17th-19th July 2024, at the University of York. Activities will include outings, music, speakers, sports, and have-a-go sessions.

(iii) On July 18th, "The One Show" featured a Barnsley u3a member promoting the activity "walking cricket" within his branch.

(iv) A new Facebook group has been set up titled "u3a fit for the future." It is a forum for u3a members, but in particular for committee members to discuss governance, finance and strategy of the u3a movement, and its vision for the future.

b Matters relating to the Regional u3a committee

(i) The Region held its first meeting under the newly appointed Trustee at Sutton Coldfield, and will meet quarterly. The next meeting is planned to take place on 11th September, 4-5pm, and will be held via zoom. All are welcome.

(ii) Regional PR adviser, Phil Rowley, will host a zoom meeting for anyone interested in PR and promotion, at a date to be agreed in September.

(iii) The Regional Trustee listed four Banks who are willing to host Charity Bank Accounts. This will largely relate to new branches, but established branches who are unhappy with their current bank may wish to explore change.

c Regional Trustee visit – arrangements

PR informed the committee that Regional Trustee, Jean Jackson, has accepted the branch's invitation to attend its monthly meeting on 31st August. She will be provided with the postcode of the Tesco car park. PR will meet her at 12.30 pm at the car park, and take her to the newly opened coffee house in the shopping centre.

PR

Around 1.30pm, she will meet members of the committee in Longton Central Hall. The meeting starts at 2 pm with a musical presentation from Roger Browne titled "The Great American Songbook."

From 3pm, there will be free time to mingle with members and the committee.

d General

(i) An enquiry had been received, via AS, from a student at Staffordshire University, named Rosemary Sibley. As part of her training she is carrying out research into the experience of older adults. She requested attendance at a branch monthly meeting to address the audience, and encourage them to take part in her research.

AD explained that earlier in the year she had made a similar request to the branch, but for publicity only. The committee had discussed the matter and agreed inclusion in the Newsletter, but only after confirming that the research had been approved by an ethics committee. No response was received, so no action was taken. Although this request is now authorised as ethically acceptable, the committee decided to authorise publicity in the Newsletter only. As an aside, DE confirmed that she had recently completed the questionnaire.

AD

(ii) AD informed the committee that he had received an email from a group of u3a chairmen wishing to form a new "u3a Chairs' Forum." The email appeared to have been sent to all chairmen. The aim of the group is to discuss matters of common interest informally on zoom. The next meeting will be at 7pm on Monday 14th August. The main topic will be the two u3a resolutions to be put to the Third Age Trust AGM in October. There is also an intention to offer membership of a new Facebook group to share information, views, etc.

Since the invitation has come from an independent group of chairs, not the Third Age Trust, AD has decided to presently decline the invitation.

5. BUSINESS SECRETARY'S REPORT

Correspondence

No items of correspondence had been received, and there were no other matters to report.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a LS had submitted an apology, and emailed a Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 7th August 2023 to all committee members. Details were as follows:

	£	
Current	270.38	Balance 2023/24
	17,399.10	B/F from 2022/23
	£17,669.48	TOTAL BALANCE

- b It was noted that the apparent surplus of £270.38 for the current year was misleading due to the receipt of £700 relating to the bequest from Joan Rose. The actual operating deficit for 2023/2024 was thus £429.62 and not considered to be of current concern to the committee.
- c Proposals for the committee lunch time meal venue will be discussed at the September committee meeting.

7. MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

Since AS had submitted an apology, AD reported that at the date of the meeting, the number of members was 375, an addition of 14 relative to the previous month.

8. GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Since PW had submitted an apology, the chairman (AD) led the report. PW has indicated that she will be available to attend the committee meeting in September.

a Group Leaders' Information Pack

LS has prepared five packs to date, and proposes to hand them over when PW returns from holiday.

LS proposed that the activity list, which is inserted into the pack, be amended such that contact and group leader details are removed. Constant changes result in the list becoming quickly out of date. AD agreed with the proposal and has amended it accordingly (i.e. for the pack only).

b Ukulele group

The Ukulele group's new contact details have been amended to read Derek Lloyd. The activity list and website have been amended accordingly.

c Gardening and nature lovers group

As mentioned in the July/August Newsletter, Christine Whitfield wishes to relinquish her role as group leader. She will however lead the August meeting. In order to ensure that this long-standing group remains active, (and it does meet once a month only), AD has spoken to group member Josie Peirson, and she has agreed to take on the role. Unfortunately, Josie broke her arm very recently but doesn't consider this to be an issue.

9. ENTERTAINMENTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

BM commented on the July presentation given by Diane Leopard. She considered it to be very different to the norm, but very well presented and well received by the audience. KW commented that he considered it to be the best talk he had heard at a u3a monthly meeting since the branch commenced.

a Bookings, etc.

(i) Roger Browne's presentation on 31st August is titled "The Great American Songbook." Roger will bring his own portable electric piano, and no other equipment is needed.

(ii) Trevor Bevan will present "Dickens of a Tale" on September 28th and requires two long tables and a room to change his attire.

(iii) Sheetal Walklate will present a talk on 26th October titled "Restorative Justice Interventions." Sheetal works for the Youth Offending Team. She requires a screen and microphone only.

LS

(iv) BM provided some thoughts on future bookings. She mentioned a Beetle Drive, but the committee was not keen. It was agreed that a quiz should be held back to replace any very late speaker cancellations.

Other possible speakers/presentations to be explored for the future were: Speaker, Andrew Lound; a magic lantern show that PR has seen elsewhere; a presentation from a local beekeeper; and a talk titled "All the fun of the fair."

b General

BM explained that she was very interested in arranging a hands-on presentation in respect of CPR and the use of a defibrillator. She did have a contact who could provide an evening presentation only. Before proceeding, BM wishes to establish the level of interest. AD agreed to insert an article in the August/September Newsletter requesting members to register an interest if they are willing to attend.

AD

10. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

(i) PR received a call from Rob Rose, from Radio Stoke, on Friday 4th August. Initial contact had been made to Pat Winfield via the u3a Facebook Page, and the details were routed to PR. Rob Rose apparently wished to discuss, on the radio, details of the Walking Group's planned walk on Monday 7th August. PR spoke with Rob Rose on the radio at the agreed time, but only about the u3a in general. PR was a little surprised that the walk was not mentioned.

(ii) An email was received by AS, dated 18th July, from Joe Urie who is the Lung Cancer Administrator at the Royal Stoke Hospital. Joe Urie runs a support group for Departmental patients, and arranges for an external speaker on the last Wednesday of every month. He wrote to ascertain whether the u3a would be interested in attending a session to explain what it has to offer. Accordingly, the email was forwarded to PR and he has made arrangements to attend the Support Group meeting on 27th September. The meeting will be held at London Road Bowling Club.

PR

11. CATERING

DE plans to provide coffee, tea and biscuits at the monthly meeting to be held on August 31st. Since the branch will celebrate its 12th birthday at the September monthly meeting, DE is planning to provide cakes.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Having discussed defibrillators during the meeting, DE suggested that the Bequest sum of £500 could be used to purchase a defibrillator for u3a use. AD agreed to obtain the cost of a defibrillator, for discussion at the September committee meeting.

AD

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th September 2023

The meeting was formally closed at 3.40 pm.