

**MINUTES OF THE 114th COMMITTEE MEETING OF STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH u3a,
HELD IN METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, LONGTON, AT 2pm ON THURSDAY 14th
SEPTEMBER 2023.**

PRESENT

Andrew Devin	Chairman
Keith Ward	Vice-Chairman
Lynne Stevenson	Treasurer
Phil Rowley	Business Secretary/Publicity Officer
Alan Stevenson	Membership Officer
Kevin Ford	Deputy Treasurer
Pauline Williams	Groups' Co-ordinator
Diane Ellis	Catering Officer
Joe Neilson	Committee Member

1. APOLOGIES

Beverley Maher.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last committee meeting held on 10th August 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**

1. National u3a week is taking place between 16-24th September. During the week the Trust is running a programme of online events, as follows:

(i) On Tuesday 19th September at 3pm, Heléna Herklots, the Commissioner for Older People and Ageing for Wales, will present a talk, which provides an insight into the impact that a commissioner can have. The Trust is lobbying for the appointment of a Commissioner for England.

(ii) On Wednesday 20th September at 10am, John Tucker from the Woodland Trust will present a talk about wildlife and the environment.

(iii) On Thursday 21st September at 10am, broadcaster Carl Honoré, will be providing a talk about how ageing should be embraced as an adventure.

2. The u3a Interest Groups Online Community, is running a week of free taster sessions between Monday 2nd and Friday 6th October. The aim of the Fair is to increase the membership of online Interest Groups.

b **Matters relating to the Regional u3a Team**

(i) The next Regional Team meeting is to be held on 21st 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. The meeting, via zoom, will be held on Friday 22nd September, 2.30-4pm.

(iii) Other matters reported included: "Exploring World Faiths" series of seminars begins in September; an online Finance workshop will take place on 22nd September; and the quarterly Regional Newsletter will be issued in October.

c Regional Trustee visit – 31st August 2023 - review

The committee was delighted to meet Jean Jackson at its monthly meeting on 31st August. All arrangements worked out well on the day. Jean sent an email on 1st September thanking the committee and branch members for a lovely day. The Chairman read out the contents of the email verbatim.

d General

(i) As recorded in last month's minutes, AD wrote to a student at Staffordshire University, named Rosemary Sibley, to inform her of the committee's agreement to publicise her research into the experience of older adults. The request for participants to complete her questionnaire was placed in the branch newsletter for August-September. Rosemary subsequently responded to AD, thanking the u3a for its support.

(ii) AD informed the committee that he had again received an invitation from a group of u3a chairmen who had formed a new "u3a Chairs' Forum." The minutes of their first meeting via zoom, held on 14th August, were also appended. AD has decided to presently decline the invitation. The contents of the minutes were however discussed, because they related entirely to opinions on the two ordinary resolutions proposed for the Thid Age Trust AGM in October. The committee considered that debate would direct its nominated officer (KW) how to cast the branch votes on the resolutions/amendments.

(iii) Bruce Evans, the Staffordshire Link Co-ordinator, has written to AD to inform the branch that the next meeting will take place on Tuesday 31st October at Oulton Village Hall.

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 presented a Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 11th September 2023. Details were as follows:

	£	
Current	-461.82	Balance 2023/24
	17,399.10	B/F from 2022/23
	£16,937.28	TOTAL BALANCE

- b LS explained that there was little to report, with little movement in the current year's deficit being in evidence. The operating deficit of £461.82 for 2023/2024 was currently not of real concern to the committee.

- c Proposals for the committee lunch time meal venue will be deferred until January 2024. LS will inform Joan Rose's son accordingly.

LS

7. MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT

AS stated that, as at the date of the meeting, the number of members was 386; an addition of 11 relative to the previous month.

8. GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

a Group Leaders' Information Pack

PW reported that she had received five packs from LS, and had distributed a pack to each of the Arts and Cards group leaders. She will distribute the remaining three packs as time and access permits.

PW

LS will prepare another five packs over the next week, for handover to PW.

LS

b Computer Group

JN updated the committee regarding interest from members for a resumption of the computer group. He stated that he had received three enquiries to date, and would consider resuming should the number rise to six.

JN

LS reminded JN that the usual venue of Longton Library was presently being subject to much internal change with extensive movement of fixtures and fittings. He should therefore discuss the possibility of a return with Library staff before a firm commitment to members is made.

9. ENTERTAINMENTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

BM had tendered an apology, therefore AD presented her report which was received in advance of the meeting. BM considered Roger Browne (August meeting guest) to have been very entertaining; she had received very positive feedback. She considered that he was well worth booking again in the future, and asked for a committee response. The committee were in full agreement with her proposal.

a Bookings, etc.

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

(ii) 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.

(iii) BM has booked the North Staffs Accordion Band for the branch Christmas monthly meeting on 30th November. The band proved to be very popular on their previous visit.

PR again mentioned a magic lantern show that he had seen elsewhere, and would attempt to establish both availability and cost.

PR

b General

(i) As discussed previously, BM remains very interested in arranging a hands-on presentation in respect of CPR and the use of a defibrillator. She enquired about member response to her proposal to arrange an evening presentation. AD explained that there had been a nil response to the proposal recorded in the August/September Newsletter. BM has alternatively proposed a daytime session, but this may result in a cost to the branch. AD agreed to insert an article into the September/October Newsletter to determine the level of interest for a daytime presentation.

AD

(ii) BM requested the committee to provide her with a date for the 2024 AGM. After a short discussion, the committee decided on a provisional date of 23rd May. It was also agreed that the Mel Baines Trio be again booked as the entertainment.

10. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

A number of thoughts and planned initiatives were provided by PR as follows:

(i) Branch Facebook Administrator, Pat Winfield will place the branch flyer and current activity timetable at two local doctors' surgeries.

(ii) PR was informed by a recent new member that he had learned of the u3a from the physiotherapist at Longton Cottage Hospital. He was provided with an activity timetable during a post-surgery exercise class. PR plans to contact the hospital to determine whether publicity can be extended.

(iii) PR has agreed to attend the Lung Cancer Support Group meeting on 27th September at London Road Bowling Club. His presentation will explain what the u3a has to offer. PR will also ask the Lung Cancer Administrator, Joe Urie, whether he could provide further leads at Royal Stoke Hospital that would enable him to publicise the u3a.

(iv) PR has a contact at Age UK and will endeavour to converse in a publicity context in the near future.

(v) Vice-Chairman, KW, opined that he was aware of an NHS Social Prescriber being employed locally to visit doctors' surgeries to review the social needs of patients rather than medical needs. Again, PR will endeavour to locate the individual and converse accordingly.

(vi) PR stated that he would like to make contact with agencies that provide pre-retirement advice. Contact to date has proved difficult, but he will persevere.

(vii) AD suggested that PR contact the local RVS, to which PR readily agreed. A recent new member to the u3a was introduced by the RVS.

(viii) PR concluded by stating that he had recently attended the national zoom meeting of publicity advisers.

PR

PR

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PR

11. CATERING

Since the branch will celebrate its 12th birthday at the September monthly meeting, DE is planning to provide cup-cakes. She will cater for an attendance of about 45.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Enquiries made regarding the purchase cost of a defibrillator established a figure of approx. £2,000. It was agreed that this sum was too high for the branch.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12th October 2023

The meeting was formally closed at 3.35 pm.

Chairman: *A. J. Devín*

Date: *12th October 2023*