

MINUTES OF THE 94th COMMITTEE MEETING OF STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH U3A HELD IN METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, LONGTON AT 2pm ON THURSDAY 9th SEPTEMBER 2021.

PRESENT

Keith Ward	Chairman
Fay Howell	Business Secretary
Andrew Devin	Vice-Chairman
Kevin Ford	Deputy Treasurer
Valerie Greatbatch	Groups' Co-ordinator
Beverley Maher	Entertainments' Co-ordinator
Phillip Rowley	Invitee to the Committee
Joseph Neilson	Invitee to the Committee

- 1. APOLOGIES** Lynne Stevenson, Alan Stevenson.
Sue Hartley (granted extended leave of absence due to a health issue).
Karen Bowers (Invitee to the Committee).

2. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed all present to the first full committee meeting since 12th March 2020. He asked that the two Invitees, viz. Phillip Rowley and Joe Neilson be formally co-opted onto the Committee. The request was agreed by all members present.

3. MINUTES OF MEETINGS:

- a The minutes of the last full Committee Meeting held on 12/03/2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.
- b Additionally, the draft minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on 5th August 2021 were examined. Minor changes were made to paras 7b and 7g and the minutes subsequently approved.
- c "Final" versions of both sets of minutes may be viewed on our website.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- a The Chairman opined that a lot of progress had been made with everyone working hard to get group meetings and member numbers up to pre-Covid levels. He concluded that we were heading in the right direction.
PR interjected that there were five new members in the Local History Group.

6. BUSINESS SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a FH had received a call from Terry Hitchen, a member of the ukulele group, which no longer has a group leader. He did not feel comfortable leading the group, but had prepared a leaflet advertising for a suitable volunteer. FH has edited the document, and following examination, the Committee authorised

Action

Mr Hitchen to place at various locations in Penkhull. AD agreed to place on the community noticeboards in Hanford and Trentham. FH will arrange printing and distribution.

FH

JN added that his wife (also a u3a member), knew a leading member of a local ukulele group (ukenauts) who may be interested. JN to report back.

JN

- b West Midlands Regional Trustee, Allan Walmsley, has requested 10 volunteers from the West Midlands to join his focus group to explore post pandemic strategy and ideas. The group will meet online.

JN

JN will give some thought about joining the group.

- c A u3a member who travelled on the coach trip to Chester on 2nd September tested positive for Covid-19 during the following weekend. Although there can be no certainty where the virus was caught, FH agreed to place advice in the next Newsletter that passengers on trips should remain vigilant and consider wearing face coverings whilst on the bus.

FH

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a Assistant Treasurer KF presented a statement of income and expenditure as at 31/08/21.

Figures were as follows:

	£	
Current	305.90	Balance 2021/22
	18,015.36	B/F from 2020/21
£	18,321.26	TOTAL BALANCE

- b The coach trip to Chester was a success and made a profit, albeit there were five late cancellations. 43 of the 50 seats were taken. The next trip is to Liverpool on October 7th. Since take-up has been low, the trip may have to be reviewed.

- c Arrangements over the booking and payment for badminton at Fenton Manor has been agreed by both parties. Outdoor bowling at Creda is operating well, and payment for the first month has been made.

8. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

In the absence of AS, KF reported that the current membership was 330.

9. GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

- a Florence Tennis Club

Discussion on this potential group was deferred until the Spring when interest/availability of courts will be examined.

- b Dance Group –CD player

FH stated that the former group leader of the dance group is aware that the u3a CD player needs to be returned.

- c Whist Group

Pam Parton has expressed an interest in being the group leader. FH to

include in the next newsletter to determine the level of interest.

d Computer Group

FH stated that there is a potential for the computer group and the flower arranging group to recommence at Tollgate. More discussion is required with VG.

VG

Joe Beeston and Les Waller have indicated that they are exploring the possibility of starting another computer group. More discussion is required with VG because any venue would need to have good wifi facilities.

VG

e Red House

The Open Craft group will remain at Red House since it is no longer up for sale.

f Other

VG had received an email from Alison Bradley from the British Red Cross looking for volunteers to help with reading and writing in the community.

FH agreed to publicise in the next Newsletter.

FH

10. MEETINGS

a Group meetings

AD stated that some two thirds of group meetings had recommenced. He considered this was a testament to the hard work of VG, the Groups' Co-ordinator.

b Monthly meetings

The Committee agreed that monthly meetings should remain suspended.

c AGM

The Committee decided to delay discussion until the October meeting. Consideration will be given to whether the AGM could be held at the end of the year in the Church adjoining Central Hall. KF stated that seating availability in the Church was 178. AD added that after applying social distancing, this number would be reduced to about 70.

11. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

a Appointment of Publicity Officer

The Chairman offered newly co-opted Committee Member PR the vacant role of Publicity Officer. PR duly accepted.

b Open Day

The Committee decided that any discussion on having an Open Day should be deferred until Spring.

c General

PR stated that he would attempt to make contact with Radio Stoke and the Sentinel to promote the u3a.

KF stated that MCH presently have a stall in Longton Market which is promoting the activities within Central Hall. The u3a Timetable of Activities

was proving very popular. FH will liaise with LS to have more copies printed.

12. ENTERTAINMENTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

BM stated that she had made contact with a number potential guest speakers but had not made any firm bookings. She sought the Committee's advice on the matter, which was to raise the issue again at the next meeting.

BM stated that she had received some literature from Tittensor Handbells Group and would forward the details to FH.

13. CATERING REPORT

FH stated that Diane Ellis had volunteered to join the team before lockdown. All arrangements will be reviewed when Monthly Meetings resume.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting was held in the Main Hall because access could not be gained to the Coffee Room (usual venue). The Chairman found the accoustics troubling and requested an alternative room for the October meeting.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 14th October 2021 at 2pm.

The meeting closed at 3:50pm.

Chairman: Date:
