

MINUTES OF THE 95th COMMITTEE MEETING OF STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH U3A HELD IN METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, LONGTON AT 2pm ON THURSDAY 14th OCTOBER 2021.

PRESENT

Keith Ward	Chairman
Andrew Devin	Vice-Chairman
Fay Howell	Business Secretary
Lynne Stevenson	Treasurer
Alan Stevenson	Membership Officer
Kevin Ford	Deputy Treasurer
Valerie Greatbatch	Groups' Co-ordinator
Joseph Neilson	Co-opted Member

1. APOLOGIES

Phillip Rowley, Beverley Maher, and Sue Hartley (extended leave of absence).

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the last Committee Meeting held on 09/09/2021 were approved and signed by the Chairman as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

Two matters were raised.

a Ref. para (9f)

FH had difficulty in contacting the British Red Cross representative, and could therefore not include any detail in the Newsletter issued at the end of September. Contact has since been made and details will be provided in the next Newsletter.

b Ref. para (11c)

KF stated that the u3a Timetable of Activities was still proving to be very popular at the MCH stall in Longton Market.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman commenced by stating that he was very pleased with the publicity that the MCH Longton Market stall was providing, and it should prove to be beneficial. He opined that good progress was being made regarding the resumption of group meetings, and we were getting close to normal levels. He informed the meeting that the small room at St.Paul's Church was again available. A short discussion followed regarding the Flower Arranging Group which used to attend this venue. It was apparent that having looked at rooms at Toll Gate and Oakwood Road, the group has decided to resume at the latter venue on 11th November. The Chairman concluded by commending VG for all her efforts in enabling group resumptions.

5. BUSINESS SECRETARY'S REPORT

- a FH stated that she had distributed all emails of interest to members of the committee. Following a question from FH, AS confirmed that he had submitted relevant details within the time window for distribution of the next TAM magazine.
- b In prior years we have publicised the Gilbert and Sullivan Events at Buxton and Harrogate. Festival Trustee, Bernard Lockett, will provide FH with details of venues and dates for 2022 and these will be included in our Newsletter accordingly. **FH**
- c FH had received a call from Allotment member, Mike Cresswell, to say that the group required an additional member to complete a full complement. The request will be recorded in the Newsletter. **FH**
- d Following a request from Bruce Evans from the Neighbourhood Link Group, FH has prepared the Stoke-on-Trent South Report for 2021. This was distributed to and examined by members. It was agreed by those present that the Report accurately reflected 2021 and should be submitted.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

- a Treasurer LS presented a Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 12/10/21.
Figures were as follows:

	£	
Current	-164.75	Balance 2021/22
	18,015.36	B/F from 2020/21
£	17,850.61	TOTAL BALANCE

- b The Treasurer provided the following supporting explanations:
- 1 The Branch remains very strong financially;
 - 2 A number of groups are currently not taking enough money to cover room costs;
 - 3 New shuttlecocks have been purchased for the Badminton group;
 - 4 The Annual Return to the Charities Commission has been completed;
 - 5 Sue Hartley will be added back to the Trustee List held by the Charities Commission;
 - 6 Payment has been made for use of the "Cloud";
 - 7 Covid related towels and sanitising sprays have been replenished;
 - 8 The Gift Aid Application will be prepared shortly.

7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

AS reported that the current membership was 341, i.e. an increase of 11. He added that he hoped that group leaders were checking membership cards for eligibility of attendance.

8. GROUP CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

a Proposed new Ukulele Group

VG is awaiting details from Barbara Cooke in respect of the number of people expressing an interest in forming a new group. The Committee will review the details when known.

b Dance Group –CD player

The CD player has been returned by the group leader who is leaving the area.

c Whist Group

FH to investigate whether the group would be eligible for the free use of Trentham School Library which permits community access at certain times.

FH

d Computer Group

The proposal for a new computer group that will provide a course on the free photography software "Gimp" has been advertised in the last Newsletter. The level of interest is not yet known.

VG

e Red House

The Open Craft/Parchment Groups together with the Beading Group will remain at Red House since it is no longer up for sale.

f Board Games

LS stated that the Branch owns Scrabble equipment, and it may be a good time to gauge the level of interest in Board Games. FH agreed to include in the next Newsletter.

FH

g Other

JN stated that, following a family bereavement, he felt unable to lead the Computer Group for a while. A resumption would also necessitate a change of venue. He did add that he would give some consideration to leading an online Chess Group in the future.

JN

9. MEETINGS

a Group meetings

AD confirmed that although St. Paul's meeting room was again available, he no longer wished to lead the French Group.

b Monthly meetings

The Committee agreed that monthly meetings should remain suspended.

c AGM

The Committee decided to presently take no action.

10. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

PR provided details to the Chairman of his attempts to contact local media to promote the work of the branch and encourage new membership:

a Contact had not yet been attempted with the Sentinel;

b Radio Stoke hadn't replied to an email request;

PR

- c MCH Minister, Jeff Short, apparently no longer uses his Cross Rhythms email address, consequently AS will provide PR with the Minister's personal email address;
- d PR has arranged an interview with Hit Mix Radio to take place on Sunday 17th October.

AS

11. ENTERTAINMENTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

BM tendered her apologies, therefore no report was presented.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a JN confirmed that he has joined the Focus Group being run by West Midlands Regional Trustee, Allan Walmsley. The group is meeting online.
- b JN asked FH whether she would be organising an evening Christmas Meal this year. She replied that she was uncertain but may book another meal before Christmas, but it will not be at Toll Gate. FH also reminded the Committee that a new group leader was required for the Lunch Group.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 11th November 2021 at 2pm.

The meeting closed at 3:23pm.

Chairman: Date: