

MINUTES OF THE 91st COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH U3A HELD IN THE CENTRAL HALL LONGTON AT 2pm ON Thursday, 9th JANUARY 2020

Present

Keith Ward	Chairman
Fay Howell	Business Secretary
Lynne Stevenson	Treasurer
Andrew Devin	Vice-Chairman
Alan Stevenson	Membership Secretary
Kevin Ford	Deputy Treasurer
Susan Hartley	Minutes Secretary

Apologies Beverley Maher, Cathy Pomeroy, Val Greatbatch

Action

1. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, 12/12/2019**
Minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record, subject to the following:
 5. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a) **Ref. e), Indoor Kurling** This should read "two tickets" not sets.
 - b) **Ref. g), Theatre** This should read "We have one free ticket. There will be a charge of £1 for our U3A."
2. **MATTERS ARISING**
 - a) **Ref. 11. a), Projector**
AD had examined the SOTS U3A's small Phillips Projector at home, and stated that its strength was only 30 lumens, and so would have little clarity and less chance of displaying text. It is designed for use in a small room. The Photography Group has one which is bigger. AD said we now have old technology, and need one with HDMI1 high definition. However, a projector will not be needed until Jo Austin's talk (30/07/20).
 - b) **Ref. 11. b), Computers**
The Acer computer returned by AL in 2015 is now "bang up to date" on Windows 10 after numerous hours of work by AD. It was agreed that he will keep the laptop at his home as it needs to be kept updated. However, he will bring it in if it is ever required. This will be noted.
 - c) **Ref. 11. d), Keep Fit Group**
The council will now be continuing with it until March because more funding has been agreed.
3. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**
Election of Committee Members
There was a discussion on who intends remaining or leaving.

AD commented that LS was “an excellent treasurer”, and held up the monthly balance sheet commenting that you had to be a professional to do this. His comments were endorsed by others. There was also talk on who may not be able to continue. Afterwards, we were in a better place knowing of intentions.

4. BUSINESS SECRETARY’S REPORT

1. NATIONAL U3A

a) Everything has been circulated. The insurance details came in at the last minute before Christmas.

b) There was an email from a Bernard Locket regarding Gilbert & Sullivan, 1st – 8th August and 23rd August 2020, with programme details attached as links. This will be mentioned in the newsletter. LS would like to see the details.

2. SOTS U3A

c) Evening Meals Group’s Christmas Gathering 13/12/19

Twenty-nine people attend. Lee Johnson of The Tollgate did not charge FH for her meal so she has donated the money to SOTS U3A.

d) Committee Christmas Meal

FH awaiting the date from Lee. She may see him tomorrow at The Tollgate.

FH

5. TREASURER’S REPORT

a) LS submitted a statement of income and expenditure which showed that, on 8th January 2020, figures were as follows:

	£	
Current	Minus 7.47	Balance 2019/20
	16,299.02	B/F from 2018/19
£	16,291.55	TOTAL BALANCE

b) Most people paid up until Christmas although most groups did not meet. We have yet to pay for new membership cards.

c) Gift Aid The claim has been done, but we have heard nothing yet.

d) Dancing Group – C.D. player LS said a new one should be suitable for CW. CW had said she would like one where she could change the speed. LS agreed with this.

6. GROUPS CO-ORDINATION REPORT

1. CO-ORDINATER (LEAD)

VG contacted an officer to inform them that she will be off the Committee for the time being, perhaps a few months, due to

personal circumstances. However, she is still happy to help with the **Indoor Kurling Group**, but requires her contact number taking off the list. She also wants to continue with the **Longton Allsorts Group**. The situation was explained to CW and PR, but they are unable to temporarily take over as Lead, although CW is happy for her contact number to be used. They will pass information on to FH.

a) Flower Arranging Group No. 2

FH had a telephone call from Sandra Robson a couple of days ago. FH explained there are two people interested in joining the group, but there is still no potential group leader. We will probably have to speak to the lady (Sheila Bullock) to tell her it is not happening yet. The first group is full.

b) Grievance – Ukulele Group

The group leader (BW) sent an email dated 8/01/20 last night consisting of 1.5 pages. He had been informed about the Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedure, but FH said he should make it additional information which BW said he had already done. He had spoken to the man ('Adam' for the purposes of these minutes) at a meeting with a female witness present, who BW had said to Adam was there for the benefit of them both. KW said he had given advice several times. Since then, the situation has got a little better, although some people are still unhappy about Adam as they consider him disruptive. FH will email a copy of The Code of Conduct and Grievance Procedure to BW.

FH

c) Group Leaders' Email List/Website

This is on hold for the time being until the return of VG.

d) Ukulele Group – Objects/Insurance

AD opined that should the group perform to raise money for another charity, and that charity had similar Objects clauses to those of the U3A, then no issues arise. A problem does arise if the group performs as U3A 'Uke 'n' Sing' for a charity that has different Objects than ours, and handles all of the fundraising activity. In this latter case, the group will not be insured. They could of course perform as an independent group at any time and monies would not be entered into the SOTS U3A accounts.

7. MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT

a) Membership now stands at 494.

b) Email received from a lady interested in joining. She was told she could join now and enjoy an extra three months' membership. The lady is interested in Family History, Gardening and Indoor Kurling.

8. PUBLICITY REPORT

- a) There was no report from CP.
- b) Community Noticeboards – Burrington Drive key
Owing to the busy festive season, FH is yet to ring Kevin Hawkins, but will contact him shortly.
- c) FH has done articles for Trentham Local magazine, and one for Third Age Matters magazine regarding our Ukulele Group. It might not go in until after the February 2020 issue.

9. ENTERTAINMENTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Monthly Meetings

- a) There was no report from BM.
- b) 26/03/20:
 - 1. Caudwell Children speaker (five minutes).
To be confirmed.
 - 2. Alex Povey of Povey Oatcakes.

10. CATERING TEAM'S REPORT

- a) 26/03/20: It was decided not to serve hot food.
- b) Diane Ellis had helped FH with the shopping for the Christmas meeting on the day. She was interested in being involved, but whether she will be able to come on the Committee is another matter.
- c) LS suggested a monthly meeting Refreshments Group to organise food. It was also suggested that, at the end of every members meeting, that we ask if anyone would be interested in helping with the washing up. KW suggested a rota of helpers so that people volunteering would know when they were expected to help.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a) Letters to Members
Membership and letters to go out at the February monthly meeting, and the AGM letter needs consideration.
- b) Facebook CW had said to FH that she wondered whether it was necessary or advisable for some photographs to go on, also that a photograph was out of date.
- c) Fay's Son He had enjoyed helping out at our Open Day, and now wishes to help out with any other events, etc. This was agreed.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 13th February 2020 at 2pm.

The meeting closed at 3:16pm.

Chairman:

Date: