

**u3a Sutton Bridge  
Executive Committee Meeting**

Friday 19 November 2023, 14.00 Market House, Long Sutton

**Minutes of the meeting**

1. Apologies for absence : SM, FH-T
2. Minutes of the last meeting 20 October : approved
3. Matters arising :

Christmas Social arrangements

A sell-out event; 52 tickets sold at October's meeting, rest to be printed. Some have been reserved and will be collected at the door. The raffle; MSC envisaged 12 prizes consisting of bottles and chocolates. Discussion about alternatives - CR suggested a hamper for the lucky ticket winner and SP offered to source. Prizes (6) for the winning quiz table will be chocolate and there will be small bottles for the best festive outfit. Refreshments; just milk needed. PR will serve and proper cups will be used. Access to the Curlew Centre from 10.30am for setting up. Several members available to help. Food will be brought to tables rather than set out buffet-style. Crisps and crackers will be on tables. 20 crackers left over from last year, SP will purchase 40 more. Running order was decided; Welcome at 2pm, everyone will check in as usual, refreshments available, raffle tickets on sale during first half hour only, quiz sheet on tables, singers from 2.30 till 3pm, food served at 3pm, quiz answers around 3.20 followed by awarding of prizes. Leader of singers will be asked to judge festive dress, raffle will be drawn (possibly over food?) and lucky ticket prize awarded. Details of the afternoon will be in Newsletter.

Mandate Form progress?

Form has been completed by PR, MSC and ED, taking Lesley Ford's name off but TSB yet to respond. Looking ahead CR should also be on mandate.

Publicity/posters/flyers

PR will produce poster for February's meeting and liaise with TD and Chris Livesey to publicise on website and in Newsletter. The venue needs to continue to be highlighted. PR will have a copy at January's committee meeting. The leaflet has been updated with MSC's contact still on back. She has had queries.

Next Year's Meeting Dates

Dates have been compiled and sent out. PR will forward to Chris for Newsletter.

Renewal Form Amendment

This has now been updated and should appear on website. Next year's fees will be discussed Jan/Feb.

Beacon training update for MM,SM,EH,ED and CR

This has not taken place. PR will ask MN to offer 2 dates in January and book the upstairs room at Market House. MSC can no longer access Beacon.

WAFF Meeting update

This was cancelled and rescheduled. PR will report next meeting.

4. Chair's report : Nothing to add.
5. Secretary's report : MM reported everything was being dealt with as far as possible and outlined computer issues. She asked why the magazine 'Third World Matters' was not available to members. This would incur costs but could be accessed online.
6. Treasurer's report : ED reported that information about subscriptions was confused.

The rate of £17 was still listed as £17.50 on website and the reduced rate of £11 payable from December was given as from November on the website. He urged everyone to adhere to invoices being received before any money is paid. The shortfall of £50 in the History Group's finances has been resolved and the balance stands at £350.58. ED described a Membership problem which needed to be sorted out and was very concerning to him as Treasurer. This involved a previous member rejoining who in error had been registered twice. MR apologised for the mistake which led to the confusion and the principle was agreed that memberships should not be renewed until the form had been received. EH frustrated that she cannot assist MR more because of lack of access to Beacon. The current account stands at £3,059.44 which includes the History Group and Social Fund. A sum of £50 given to PR needing clarification. This came from an Interest Group leader and further investigation necessary to find out whether this should go back to the group or be received as a donation to u3a.

7. Interest Group Coordinator's report : MSC said a few more members had signed up at the last meeting and she would communicate details to SM.
8. Speaker Secretary's report : JS circulated details of possible speakers and after consideration he said he would arrange the following :
  - Feb - FH-T Lloyds of London part 2
  - March - Mary's Meals Charity
  - April - Talk about Edith CavellAfter the disruption to timings at the last meeting with the speaker over-running, it was agreed that talks lasted no more than 45 minutes and that any questions asked should be repeated.
9. Membership Secretary's report : EH pleased to report that 61 people attended November's meeting, a good turnout, with some new members signed up. Monthly printout of membership statistics circulated. CR asked whether any of the 29 members resigning had given a reason and whether this could be followed up in some way. MR reiterated that ED will be kept fully informed of new memberships and he will pass on payments received and numbers issued directly whilst retaining the forms. Lanyard money will also go to ED.
10. AOB : PR said that the constitution was now on the website. CR asked whether a speaker was necessary every month and if other activities could be considered. MM asked whether interest group leaders could attend monthly meetings to publicise their groups. It was suggested that members' feedback in general would be useful. Asking for members' views on what they'd like to see as interest groups and encouraging them to start up new groups would be very productive.

The meeting closed at 15.50

Next meeting : Friday 19 January 2024 at 14.00

Distribution : ED, EH, CR, MM, MSC, SP, FH-T, MN, MR, JS, PR, TD, SM, AL