

## Present

New Milton, Eastleigh, Southampton, Romsey Archway, Winchester, Lyminster, Totton South, Fordingbridge, Monks Brook P

**Apologies** Susie Berry – SE Trustee, Chandlers Ford, Botley and Hedge End

1. The chair welcomed those present to the meeting.
2. **The notes of the previous meeting** were accepted as accurate.

### Matters arising:

VT asked that in note 11, the paragraph on independent examiners, national office guidelines do not rule out using one of your own members to examine the accounts.

JL requested helpers for the South East Forum to organise next year's summer school.

The discussion moved on to who was a volunteer and the perceived flourishing of informal committees and groups.

**ACTION: AB** will find out more details.

### 3. Communications across the network.

JL had been looking at Beacon and Gmail for sending and receiving messages. The disadvantage of Beacon was that "reply all" is not possible. The disadvantage of Gmail was that the contact list was growing as new u3a members appeared at meetings to represent their individual u3a without JL being sure that the previous representative could be deleted. VT suggested that JL/AB could include a simple sentence at the end of every network email – If you do not wish to receive these emails, please reply putting unsubscribe in the title line.

**ACTION: ALL** – as SWHants has been established for one year please inform JL who is their official network representative; this is likely to be an annual request.

4. **SERN.** Nothing to add to report circulated.

5. **Fit for the Future Facebook page** is the official site for raising/discussing concerns regarding the evolution of the u3a Council and u3a Board. AB had read some interesting items but admitted that some of the posts contained irrelevant discussions. There was an interesting article on a countrywide shortage of volunteers which prompted a discussion on the difficulty of recruitment and how not to put members off too early. The use of STAR, Small Tasks As Required, was recommended whilst DG noted that many people were put off by having to become a trustee. AB concluded by saying that national office was using the Facebook page as a conduit for views on how the u3a should evolve and that all members were to be encouraged to make contributions.

## 6. Summer School.

HR (Mahjong) and GE (creative writing) both said that the event had been very successful. It had been fully booked weeks in advance. Jane Glennie of Pedlars and Petticoats had given an excellent talk.

## 7. Joint Network Activities.

**a. Quiz** CR confirmed that the quiz was now booked for noon to 2 pm on Wednesday 29 November in Crossfield Hall, Romsey. She had six teams so far but the hall could accommodate many more. 1 November was the cut-off date for applications. Discussion continued about the best source of sandwiches. All costs would be met from network funds, including a prize that could be shared amongst the winning team members.

**ACTION: CR** will ask Jill Haistead to be quizmaster.

**b. Peer Groups.** There had been problems with the zoom link for the treasurer's meeting in August. Discussion ensued about the best platform for the next peer group meeting for secretaries planned for October.

**ACTION: AB** will set up meeting.

PW mentioned Google Meet. Following discussion of alternative sites offer was made to investigate Google Meet further.

**ACTION: VT and DG**

## 8. Meeting Dates.

Help was needed by JL and AB to arrange the timetable and locations for all 2024 network meetings.

## 9. SWHants website development.

The move to SiteWorks was underway for all u3as currently using Sitebuilder. It was technical work and needed a member for each u3a to manage the change. In response to a question from FB, most u3as seem to have only one person who knew about the transition; very few had teams working on the project.

## 10. Succession planning.

No discussion.

## 11. Your spot

**(a)** JL raised the topic of **associate membership**. Various policies were presented to facilitate viability of outings and small interest groups. All came with different advantages as well as concerns. Individual u3as can decide ways that are most beneficial to their needs.

**(b)** FB asked if there were any **Railway Groups** in other u3as. Silence.



South West Hampshire u3a Network  
Notes of meeting 18 September 2023 St  
Boniface church, Chandlers Ford at 2 pm

(c) VT asked if any members present had experience of dealing with a **formal complaint** by one member against another. HR said that she had national office responsibilities on this and could assist if desired.

(d) **Gift Aid.** GE was about to register and made a first claim. VT offered his advice if needed.

(e) **Gifts to speakers** who are u3a members. No fee could be paid but it was agreed that a small gift as a thank you was entirely acceptable.

(f) **Giving to another charity** through a fund raising event organised by a u3a was a tricky subject but could be safely done if the funds never went through the u3a books.

(g) **Minor expenses** incurred by interest groups should be funded by the members of that group.

(h) **Applications for discounted u3a membership** by those on reduced circumstances should be handed sensitively and confidentially. The member should always pay the capitation fee; this should not be subsidised by the u3a.

**12. AOB.**

None

Next meeting on zoom (or similar) Monday 27 November 2pm DGREG declared the meeting closed at 1555