

## SOUTH WALES U3A NETWORK MEETING 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2020.

### Apologies:

David/Val Pope – Abergavenny

Derek Shotton – Chepstow

Iris Davies – Risca

Lynette Carr – Swansea

Beryl Keating – Gartholwg

Denise Jones – Bridgend

David Langford – Sully

Martin Sanders – Sully

Susan Sear – Neath

Cue Collier – Cowbridge

### Attendees:

Tony	Baines	Cardiff
David	Davies	Torfaen
Michael	Faraday	Usk
Jane	Jenkins	Maesteg
Peter	Lloyd	Swansea
Vanessa	Mason	Newport
Crin	Morgan	Garth Olwg
Janet	Pryce-Jones	Sully
Sue	Shannon-Jones	Swansea
Kate	Thomas	Crichhowell
Rhiannon	Williams	Gilwern
Michael	Young	Cardiff

Minutes – read and accepted. Nominated by Dai Jones, seconded Michael Young

**Matters arising**, there have been some delays with setting up the bank account but this should be resolved within the next few months.

### Chair report

After the election of the new set of executive officers at last year's AGM on 11<sup>th</sup> January in Sully, I suggested, and it was agreed, that the officers should meet to discuss matters arising from the suggestions made during the subsequent network committee meeting. It was agreed to hold officers' meetings after future network committee meetings in an attempt to ensure progress through the year. After the AGM, all four executive officers met in Cardiff on 1<sup>st</sup> February.

The treasurer was authorised to open a bank account with the four officers as signatories.

There was discussion on a creating a timetable for meetings in the forthcoming year. Dates were set for two Workshops, for two Study Days and for network meetings to be held in April, July, October and January. It was agreed to draft a new constitution to accord with the wishes of any bank that would be prepared to operate the network bank account. It was also pointed out that there were certain deficiencies in the constitution that had been modelled on that of the South West Wales Network. It was agreed that the officers would redraft sections of the constitution and then submit these alterations for approval at each network meeting.

At each subsequent meeting, officers were up-dated on the progress of the timetable for Workshops and Study Days. Also at those meetings, after input and suggestions from members of each network committee meeting, there was further refinement of the draft constitution.

In October, after much productive discussion, it was agreed to adopt the constitution that had been finalised during that meeting. This has been done and it was agreed that the constitution was to be formally instituted from the beginning of 2020.

At the October officers' meeting I tendered my resignation as an executive officer. That is why the election of a new person to take over the chair is needed today.

I believe that we now have a network that is making progress and implementing the wishes of member U3As. The 2019 officers have worked well for the progress of the network and I offer my best wishes for the future to the network and to the 2020 executive officers.

David (Dai) Jones: Chairman

### **Secretary Report**

The year started off well with decisions being made at our AGM and the following network meetings at Torfaen, Bridgend and Crickhowell being well attended. The break out sessions were also felt to be very useful and it is hoped that these will continue.

The Study day at Sully was also very well attended and even made a small profit and there is scope that these talks can be done elsewhere.

The study day in November had to be called off due to one of the speakers not being able to proceed. We are hoping to reschedule during 2020.

Our Workshop on Communications was also well attended and we have requested our next workshop on Volunteers and Volunteering as agreed at our last meeting. It is likely that this will be in May/June. Denise and 2 others have been trained to give workshops on 2 subjects but awaiting training for further ones. The smaller "bite size" workshops have yet to be concluded.

Denise Jones: Secretary

### **Finance Report – Financial Year 2019**

The main task of the year, the opening of a bank account, has still not achieved and I must apologise for this.

The main problem that remains is that we are not a charity, which limits the number of banks that will take us on, especially for online banking. Metro Bank have proved helpful in providing a suitable account and permitting remote verification. However, the Cardiff Branch has taken far longer to complete because of planning demands which required a complete site development. They remain very careful about the documentation and with strictly limited time requirements. These are not helped by the fact that we only have quarterly meetings and committee decisions must be notified and actioned within three months. In spite of the time it has taken, I still believe that Metro Bank is still the best fit for our requirements. Getting to Bristol which I have done three times has been necessary. When they have opened in Queen Street, it should be far simpler to make progress. It is sensible to discuss any changes, resulting from the election of officers, at the quarterly meeting following this one. Costs (mainly remote verifications and postage) are estimated at are currently about £40.

The most significant event during the year was the Atrial Fibrillation Day at Sully, which was splendidly organised by Sully U3A. This resulted in a profit of about £78, our first income since the re-establishment of our network. It is clear that it will be essential to organise at least one income raising event each year, if we are to avoid levying a fee on our participating U3As.

The Eisteddfod balance is noted separately and unchanged during the year. North Wales Network did not call on us to contribute toward their support of the Llanrwst Eisteddfod, which was covered by their capitation fee. I do not know about the plans of the West Wales Network for Tregaron, but is currently a distance from the nearest U3A. Bodwan is also fairly remote, but it looks unlikely there would have be a

contribution request for that one either. It will be interesting to see where it is held in 2022.

Michael Young: Treasurer

Vote of thanks to Michael by David Davies: Torfean – seconded by Janet Price-Jones: Sully

There was a discussion about the possibility of capitation fees, it had been decided not to implement this at previous meetings, each U3A will take turns to host the meetings which will reduce the costs of hiring venues. The study days should also realise a small excess which will offset any expenses incurred.

### **Nominations for committee members.**

Secretary – Denise would like to step down but will stay if no one will stand, we should make an assertive commitment to recruit a sec over the next year.

Vice Chair – will continue in the event that no other nominations have been received.

Treasurer – will continue in the event he is nominated.

Chairman – is standing down. No nominations have been received. As per constitution someone can be asked to stand from the floor. However, there were no nominations. After some discussion it was decided that there will be a 'rolling chair' until a Chairman can be recruited from the network. A request will be sent to all participating U3As.

Vice Chair: Sue Shannon-Jones– nominated Dai Jones – seconded Michael Young

Treasurer: Michael Young – nominated Denise Jones– seconded Sue Shannon-Jones

Secretary: Denise Jones – nominated Sue Shannon-Jones - seconded Dai Jones

AGM closed at 10:55 with no AOB

David Davies – Torfaen agreed to chair the network meeting in a once only role.