

<https://u3asites.org.uk/walesu3a/page/10321>

MINUTES of Zoom meeting – 24th February 2021

1. ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE/ 2. APOLOGIES

Acting Chair	Sue Shannon-Jones	Present
Secretary	Denise Jones	Present
Treasurer	Michael Young	Present
Wales Trustee	Chris Winner	Present
Abergavenny	Valerie Stowell	Present
Abergavenny 2 nd contact	Derek Pope	Apology
Barry & District	John Waud	Absent
Blackwood	Roger Evans	Absent
Bridgend	Denise Jones	Present as above
Caerphilly	Pat Williams	Absent
Caldicot & District	Linda Stewart	Present
Caldicot & District 2 nd contact	Rob Harry	Present
Cardiff	Tony Baines	Present
Chepstow	Derek Shottin	Present & Host
Chepstow 2 nd contact	Hugh Hutton	Present
Chepstow 3 rd contact	Shelagh Davies	Present
Chepstow 4 th contact	Nicky Lee	Present
Cowbridge	Valerie Monaghan	Absent
Crickhowell & District	Kate Thomas	Present
Cynon Valley	Ian Caulfield	Present
Ebbw Vale	Mary Jones	Present
Garth Olwg	Beryl Keating	Present
Gilwern	Rhiannon Williams	Present
Maesteg	Jane Jenkins	Present
Monmouth	Mary Ross	Present
Neath	Susan Sear	Absent
Newbridge	Jean M Lewis	Absent
Newport	Rob Wilkinson	Present
Pontyclun	Sharon Corbett	Present
Porthcawl	Sally Corbett	Present
Risca	Iris Davies	Absent
Sully	Wendy Gruffydd	Absent
Sully 2 nd contact	Martin Sanders	Present
Sully 3 rd contact	Claire Stansfield	Absent
Sully 4 th contact	Jan Palmer	Absent
Swansea	Peter Lloyd	Present
Tonyrefail	Cynthia Evans	Absent
Torfaen	Dave Davies	Absent
Tredegar	S Lloyd	Absent
Usk	Mike Faraday	Present
Usk 2 nd contact	Margaret Hatfield	Apology

3. AGREEMENT FOR RECORDING OF THE MEETING

All those attending the meeting agreed for the meeting to be recorded.

4. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

Rob Wilkinson of Newport proposed the amended Minutes be approved as circulated and this was seconded by Peter Lloyd of Swansea.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Sue Shannon-Jones said that she had nothing specific to report and would talk later on other projects.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Denise Jones said that she had been to a Regional Meeting and a Network Link meeting via zoom since the last meeting and had circulated her report on both (the Network Link report needs to be amended to show that national office are expecting a drop of 20% not 2%). The network link meeting would be uploaded to Utube. She had also included the leaflet she had received for the new Member Link project (which had been circulated to all chairs and secretaries) and the leaflet on Diversity & Inclusion. She also reported that there was a query in relation to TAT insurance for u3a equipment and there was a short discussion about this and it was agreed that the relevant u3a had to pay any excess that was deducted by the insurance company. She also reported that she had 4 tickets to the Recruitment and Retention zoom event next week and asked those who wanted to attend to send her a private chat message. (She received 2 from Sue Shannon-Jones and Linda Stewart). Denise also reported that she was expecting a call from Jayne Bailey to discuss training to run workshops via zoom and would report back at the next meeting about this. Tony Bailey asked what a TV and RV were as he was a new member of the network and it was explained to him that there were TVs (Trust Volunteers) of which Denise Jones and Sharon Corbett were 2 of about 7 or 8 in the Wales area and Regional volunteers. In that capacity they were included in the regional meetings and Denise had been attending the Network Link meetings on behalf of the Network since the first Chairman resigned.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Michael Young said that he would be preparing a report as to how to proceed. The future was hazy and we needed to work on a budget with the new committee when it was appointed next month. No income is coming into the network at the moment and there is no source. There is possibly about £100 in the account. The last monies paid in were from the study day held in Sully. The network money is still held by Cardiff until an account can be opened, probably with the new committee members now as the original application forms had been in the names of the old committee members.

8. UPDATE ON RESEARCH AND SHARED LEARNING PROJECTS

Sue Shannon-Jones referred to the circular she had produced and which had been circulated and asked what, if anything, was going on in Wales. She told us that Pembrokeshire were looking at churches and Swansea were looking into group sharing. Rob Wilkinson asked about sloway projects and she informed him they were mostly in relation to local wildlife, archeology etc. She said there was a lot of potential although it was not strictly a u3a group.

9. PRESENTATIONS OF NETWORK GROUP'S PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Denise confirmed that she had circulated a copy of the reports she had received so far from those in our network and confirmed that although Caldicot had done a powerpoint presentation, they were happy for it to be circulated and would take questions on it and was only aware of Chepstow doing a presentation to us "live".

Sue Shannon-Jones said that it appeared that 8 groups were holding weekly zoom meetings and 3 on a monthly basis, that 7 groups were using newsletters to keep in touch, 6 using email, 7 by telephone, 2 using facebook and 1 using whatsapp. The matters of concern were the 2 groups which were struggling, 1 of which was running out of funds and out of members.

Chepstow gave their presentation on the day by Hugh Hatten. He said that they had based their presentation on health and help and keeping safe. They had bought their first zoom package on the 31st March 2020. By January

2021 they had 76 meetings on zoom and now have 2 accounts . They still had their magazine, website and had expanded their facebook site by running a campaign. Those who were not connected to the internet were contacted by phone. They now have 38 groups meeting virtually, 7 of which are new groups. They were planning more risk assessments, a weekly market stall, a stall at the Chepstow Show in August, and Open Day in October and expect of have hybrid meetings in the future. They were also planning to have their members pay by paypal in the future, via Beacon.

Sally Corbett said that Porthcawl were accepting cheques and payments directly into the bank account. Denise Jones said that her u3a had recently gone onto Beacon and seen that they were promoting paypal which her u3a did not want. It appears however that when Beacon 2 is rolled out later this year, the mercantile bankers they will be using for it will be a company called Stripe and not paypal. Swansea said they use all types of payment. Sally Corbett said that Porthcawl had a new Treasurer who scanned cheques received for membership which then were accepted into their bank account and she had informed the committee that Beacon had made a fabulous job of balancing the books.

Kate Thomas asked to present as she had not sent in a written report for Circkhowell. She told us that her group's monthly meetings were going well on zoom, numbers are now the same and lots of groups running that way. They are using zoom, facebook pages and sykpe, only their walking group is now a face to face group. It was seen that nearly all groups were in touch with their members in some way or other, online, monthly newsletters, email and snailmail, a befriending system had been set up, lots of positivity. They held their AGM on zoom and had good feedback with over 400 members and are having new ones joining.

Denise Jones told the meeting that Bridgend had sent out a survey and had decided to refund those who paid last year and set the membership fee at £5 this year until we could get back to "normal" and as they were now on Beacon this would be easier to manage going forward. Chris Winner said that we need to help adjoining groups if they need it, the memberlink brochure should help with lots of suggestions.

Beryl Keating said that in her group, the fees were paid to the end of March 2020 and because lockdown fell at the wrong time for them, only 37 out of 103 renewed. They had approached national office to see if there was any assistance but had not had much luck apart from they could pay their capitation fees in stages. Chris Winner said that some people in the office were off sick and most working at home and she would try and find out who Beryl should contact. There was a short discussion on how everyone should try to help each other and perhaps may have to join with another local group to keep going.

Tony Baines said that he thought Caldicot's presentation was very good with their 2 year business plan and analysis, using sources, collaborations, communications, online and otherwise, risk assessment, recruitment, marketing, finances and a budget balance. Rob Harry said that they needed a structure as he felt that they were fishing in the same water as other associations, most of whom were struggling, they had put resources together ongoing, and had so far lost about 70 members out of 500. There was talk of not charging but it was likely there will be problems with the traditional venues, church halls, community halls etc as they all have a budget too and its likely that they will be increasing theirs to make up. It was agreed that Tony Baines would assist the network in preparing a result from all the reports, hopefully for our next meeting. At this time Rob Wilkinson had to leave the meeting.

Nicky Lee said that they were concentrating their recruitment campaign on the "wellness" of their members. There are a lot of newly retired people out there and we need to work with the positives. Need to target the lonely and isolated and it was time to get out to them. There are a lot of "how to" bits of information groups could use and maybe advertise on facebook with a central source.

Ian Caulfield said that his group had problems with Zoom because their members were not particularly computer literate and no-one wanted a committee role and those who are in those roles are finding it difficult to be replaced. He took the chair as no else would but is blind and although he has discovered that zoom are trying to do something for the blind, their finances were diminishing so it was probably not an affordable option. He said however that he had learnt a great deal by coming to the meeting. Chris Winner had to leave the meeting at this stage.

10. NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Derek Shottin said that this year was going to be a challenging and all groups would need all the help they could get. We need u3a's to participate. The network needs a team of officers. He said that he was willing to stand as chair because he had ideas and enthusiasm but he is not prepared to do this on his own. He said that he was heartened

by the enthusiasm in the meeting today. He said that although Michael Young was willing to carry on for another year in the Treasurer's role, we still needed a Vice Chairman and a Secretary. There was no necessity for a Vice Chairman to automatically step into the Chairman's role later and there was nothing wrong with job sharing. In fact it would help with ideas. Nominations are not necessary to send in on the forms Denise Jones had sent out, anyone who wanted to help only had to email him or Denise to let them know if they were interested in helping. Sue Shannon-Jones also commented to say that an executive member of the network did not have to be on the committee of any one of our groups so if anyone knew of a person in their group who would be good at any of the roles to please confirm to a member of the committee.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Derek asked if Denise had given thought to applying for the role of Wales Trustee and Denise said that she had not as she was probably too busy with other u3a work and because she was still working in her own business on a part time basis and was still in "travelling" mode and planning another couple of 3 month long trips so it would not be fair. Sue Shannon-Jones reported that she had been asked to take on the role previously and again recently and Denise said she thought that was an excellent idea and would support her. Derek Shottin also thought that it would be good to have a Wales Trustee from South Wales as the last 2 had been from North Wales.

Derek Shottin wanted to bring everyone's attention to the South Wales Network website page which was not used very often by anyone and should be. He shared his screen and pointed out the zoom speakers and other options. He had asked Denise Jones to put a link at the top of the Minutes on circulation and on the Agenda. There are covid 19 updates on there too. Derek said if anyone has something they want to put on the website, to email Denise and she would send on. If anyone having quizzes and wants to invite others, also tell Denise for the website to be updated. It needs to be "used" more often.

Sally Corbett asked about the meeting tomorrow for Chairmen as she had not seen an invite. Denise Jones said that she believed it had been circulated to all Chairs and that her invite had only arrived this morning and she would send the link to Sally later. Sally also confirmed that Porthcawl had about a 20% loss of members but had had 7 new members during lockdown so all in all they were not too worried and in fact quite upbeat.

Mike Faraday said they were having their AGM via zoom and wanted to know if you could run a "poll" through zoom. Hugh Hutton said they had told their members to send their proxy votes into one committee member ahead of the meeting (Chair) because it was difficult polling on zoom, especially if 2 people are sharing a computer, it would need to be repeated for the second person there and zoom gives you a total of the poll but does not remember it so you need to remember to write it down. Hugh said that all proxies were through the Chairman so all had to come rather than individuals. It was Beacon controlled. Derek Shottin asked Mike Faraday if he would like to attend the AGM at Chepstow to see how it runs and Mike said that he would. Sally Corbett said that Porthcawl had run their AGM via zoom and thought that they had received a print out of the poll.

Jane Jenkins said that her u3a circulated all their members with voting forms and gave them an obligation to return them.

Derek Shottin said that he had taken a screenshot of the zoom meeting to put on the website if everyone agreed, another shot was taken as a lot of heads were downcast.

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has already been agreed to be held on 24th March 2021 at 2.30pm. The AGM will also held at this time.

The meeting then closed at 16.07