

MINUTES of AGM Zoom meeting – 24th March 2021

1. ALL THOSE IN ATTENDANCE/ 2. APOLOGIES

Acting Chair	Sue Shannon-Jones	Apologies
Secretary	Denise Jones	Present
Treasurer	Michael Young	Present
Wales Trustee	Chris Winner	Absent
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	Roger Bradshaw	Absent
Crickhowell & District	Kate Thomas	Present
Cynon Valley	Ian Caulfield	Absent
Cynon Valley 2 nd contact	Helen Charles	Present
Ebbw Vale	Mary Jones	Absent
Ebbw Vale 2 nd contact	Gary Denyer	Present
Garth Olwg	Beryl Keating	Apologies
Gilwern	Rhiannon Williams	Present
Maesteg	Jane Jenkins	Present
Monmouth	Mary Ross	Present
Neath	Susan Sear	Present
Newbridge	Jean M Lewis	Absent
Newport	Rob Wilkinson	Present
Pontyclun	Sharon Corbett	Apologies
Porthcawl	Sally Corbett	Present
Risca	Iris Davies	Absent
Sully	Wendy Gruffydd	Absent
Sully 2 nd contact	Martin Sanders	Present
Swansea	Peter Lloyd	Apologies
Tonyrefail	Cynthia Evans	Absent
Torfaen	Dave Davies	Present
Tredegar	S Lloyd	Absent
Usk	Mike Faraday	Present

Usk 2nd contact Margaret Hatfield Absent

3. AGREEMENT FOR RECORDING OF THE MEETING

Derek Shottin said that he would be taking the meeting as Sue Shannon-Jones was unavailable as her husband had died last week. All at the meeting wished to send their condolences. All those attending the meeting agreed for the meeting to be recorded.

4. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

Derek shared the screen and asked if these could be taken as read. The only alteration was that Abergavenny says David/Val Pope whereas it was David Pope and Val Stowell. Derek Shottin said that Dai Davies chaired the meeting and Dai agreed as we were only just quorate. Dai Davies said that these were an accurate set of Minutes and Tony Baines seconded.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It's been a strange year which goes without saying really. I am gratified that not only has the Network continued but has gone from strength to strength with some enthusiastic interaction from members. For various reasons the AGM in Cardiff on the 3rd January last year proved to be difficult for many to attend. Fortunately, we had a quorum which enabled the AGM to continue. Unfortunately, no one in attendance felt able to take up the vacant position of Chair, so as Vice Chair, I agreed to stand in as Acting Chair until one could be recruited.

As we all know, it was shortly after this, that the pandemic hit and we were, from March unable to meet face to face. In some ways this has had an unexpected advantage in that more people are able to attend meetings. I feel that we are now going into the next year with further the Network continuing to develop and grow.

I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Network but in particular Derek Shottin who has hosted the Zoom meetings and provided practical help for the novice users. Michael Young has continued in his role and Treasurer, although due to said pandemic and lockdowns little progress has been made, I thank him for his diligence and enthusiasm.

Last but not by any means least, our Secretary Denise Jones who has carried out the role above and beyond. As she steps down this year, I know she will be sorely missed. Due to my other commitments, I shall also be stepping down. However, as my role as Research and Shared Learning Coordinator develops, I shall be keeping in touch from time to time.

All the very best to you all

Derek Shottin said that he wanted to thank Sue for chairing the network for the last year as Vice Chairman as we did not have a Chairman elected. He also thanked Dai Davies for taking the role of Chair at the last AGM.

6. SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the AGM in January 2020, I am afraid that there is nothing really of note to report for the year because of the pandemic. The most pleasing side of the situation has been the fact that we have met more often via zoom and it has given us the opportunity to welcome more network contacts as they haven't had to travel to meetings and there has been more lively and enthusiastic

communication between us all. Long may it continue. I for one, would prefer that we kept our meetings on this platform going forward.

It is hoped that more workshop training will be done in order to hold workshops in the future, whether face to face or via zoom. As for study days, these will probably be impossible for most of 2021 too unless all restrictions are dropped, which is unlikely.

The Secretary has reported on 6 zoom meetings over the last year. Dai Davies said that he wanted to thank Denise Jones. Derek Shottin confirmed that we all thanked her for her work.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT (see below)

Michael Young confirmed that there had been no transactions during the year and so the figures shown were unchanged. He explained the assets were divided into in two parts. The first being derived from those of the original South Wales Network and the second dedicated to establishing a u3a presence at the National Eisteddfod when it was in the Network's area. Abergavenny u3a transferred the cash held by them to Cardiff u3a. However, the Cardiff event was mainly funded by a £500 grant from National Office and donations by u3as that are members of our Network. A donation was offered to the North Wales Network towards the Llanrwst Eisteddfod, but they were already adequately funded. The next time we have the Eisteddfod in our area will probably be in Rhondda Cynon Taff in 2024. Unlike the one in Cardiff, this is not likely to be an "open" event, so tickets will have to be bought in order to staff a stand all day and every day. This will mean that amount need to be raised will be larger than it was in Cardiff. As reported last year the only income generated by the Network since it was re-established was the Sully atrial fibrillation workshop, which made a small profit. Part of this profit is held by the treasurer and part by Swansea u3a, who collected the money from their members electronically. Since the 2017, when the first 3 meetings of the committee were organised by the network, until the lockdown for the pandemic, meetings have been sponsored by local u3as around the network. The £83 owing to the secretary related directly to these 2017 meetings. The other outstanding expenditure relates to costs of approximately £40 to officers relating to validation of documents and postage. The situation can be summed up as "Not a lot of money in the kitty, but we are not spending any either

In a discussion on the Finance Report, the Treasurer commented that the committee had agreed to open an account at Metro Bank as it had proved difficult to open an account elsewhere because we are not a registered charity. He also noted that we had now lost all the validations previously done for the previous officers because of the new changes. Nicky Lee asked about using Lloyds Bank instead as they also offer a community account which she had recently opened for another "non-charity". Michael Young responded that National Office had banked with Metro Bank when the situation was originally discussed, but it appears they had since decided to return to Barclays.. He would be happy to approach the Lloyds Bank. Gary Denyer asked if the network could register and become a registered charity. Derek Shottin said that would probably work. Denise Jones said that she thought the network had to have over £5k in the kitty to get charitable status. Michael Young was not sure, but confirmed that the bigger networks seemed to have separate charitable status.

The accounts were therefore proposed accepted by Rob Wilkinson and seconded by Rob Harry. All in favour.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Derek Shottin explained that we had 3 offices already covered. Derek Shottin for Chairman, Dai Davies for Vice Chairman and Michael Young for Treasurer. As no-one was in opposition for any of these roles it was suggested that these officers be voted in. All were in favour. As to the role

of Secretary there was no volunteer. The network can survive without but it would be difficult. The role could be shared. Derek Shottin asked all members present to ask among the members of their own u3a's to see if there was anyone willing to take on the role.

The AGM therefore ended at 2.50pm.