

## WARWICK DISTRICT U3A

### Minutes of a meeting of the Management Committee held on 10th September 2019 at The Moorings

**Present:** Margot O’Keeffe (Chair); Ann Bailey; Mike Cronin; Margaret Coggins; Chris Forse; Sue Roy; Sue Sheen; Sam Sexton.

1. **Apologies:** Sharon Hancock, Richard Piggott, John Wilks and Gisele Kirby.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** these were approved and signed by the Chair.
3. **Matters arising from the minutes:** there were none.
4. **Items for AOB:** Larry Treacy; September Open Meeting; Dispute within a Group.
5. **Open meetings:** Sue (Roy) reported that speakers were now booked for all OMs up to and including September 2020. A recommendation regarding Steve Dimmer had been received from Northampton U3A via Ann and Sue has booked him but still needs to select a topic from several talks he offers.

Peter Barrett, recommended by Leicester U3A, will talk about his grandmother who was a suffragette. Georgie Hale has been booked for March on Brian Tillyer’s suggestion – she was ‘shipwrecked’ while on an Antarctic cruise.

Chris will promote the Economics Day at the September meeting.

6. **AGM (12<sup>th</sup> February 2020):** Sue (Sheen) reported that no detailed activity was required at this stage apart from thinking about the Management Committee membership. A new Vice Chair will be needed as Sharon will have done three years, the maximum permitted. Margot will be stepping down as Chair and leaving the Committee. Chris indicated that he would be prepared to stand as Chair if needed but feels that there is a need to recruit new talent if at all possible. The next issue of *Info* should to be used for this although Sam indicated that space is at a premium.
7. **Calendar for 2019/2020:** ideas for 2020 include:
  - **January or March:** a visit to Soho House in Birmingham. Maggie Watts is more inclined towards March for this visit due to the weather.
  - **February:** Swan Lake at Birmingham Hippodrome.
  - **April:** Wrest Park is a possibility.
  - **May:** a visit to Tewksbury to include a river trip.
  - **June:** Chatsworth Flower Show (if tickets can be secured)
  - **July:** Maggie is looking at a choice of two from three options - a guided visit round a plant nursery/a nature trail/a tour of Bombay Sapphire distillery – all to include a pub lunch.
  - **August:** Ann reported that she and Maggie have spoken about the possibility of a trip to the Gilbert & Sullivan festival in Harrogate which Ann would organise. As Ann is not certain to be able to take part due to domestic duties no action is currently being taken.

**Economics Day – 11<sup>th</sup> November:** Chris reported that the venue has been booked (Dormer Place) as have the three speakers (the same as for the previous event). 9.30 start and 12.30pm finish. All three speakers would like to observe the two minutes silence at 11am and Ann suggested using a radio as a prompt (she will bring one). There will be a break for refreshments at about 10.40am so the silence could be at the end of the break. This will be announced on the day as and when appropriate. There was some discussion as to whether to charge £3 or £4 and it was

felt that £3 would suffice. Chris requested help with refreshments. [Note: if using the OM refreshments they will need to be collected from Nicola in due course].

**8. Miscellaneous Enquiries:**

**Dogs' Trust:** Margot reported that an approach has been received from the Dogs' Trust asking us to promote their scheme whereby they recruit foster carers for dogs awaiting permanent adoption. It was agreed that this was not appropriate and Margot will respond to the Dogs' Trust. **Addendum:** as we learned subsequent to the Committee Meeting that a captioned photo was to be included in *Info* and on the website, the decision not to display the poster at the Open Meeting was reversed.

**Mirthy:** an approach had been made to Management Committee members from Alex Ramamurthy of Mirthy and Margot and Ann met with him on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. His initial suggestion had been to link us with retirement developments which have underutilised spaces which our groups might be able to use. The discussion broadened out to look at how Alex might work with us to increase membership. After some discussion the Management Committee felt that it was more appropriate for Alex to be speaking with TAT. He has been invited to attend the September Open Meeting. It was felt inappropriate for him to attend the Group Leaders' Forum.

**Addendum.** After the Open Meeting Chris suggested he talk to the GLs at the GL Forum as he thought Alex's ideas would be of interest and we do have a very short agenda for that day.

**9. Treasurer's report and other matters:** Mike had circulated his monthly report ahead of the meeting. He made the following observations:

- There is a lot of membership income banked at the moment with more to come.
- Approximately £4,000 of subscriptions had been paid by BACS and £5,500 by cheque.
- More groups are using the Activities Account which is encouraging.
- Membership income is approximately £2,700 below forecast but this is probably due to timing.
- The account with the Unity Trust Bank is now set up and working well. Mike will close the HSBC account in due course – perhaps at the end of October. The deposit account is currently with HSBC.
- The Activities Account balance at the end of August is mainly due to temporary surpluses on trips. The general trend is for trips to make a surplus, some of them quite large. It was felt that this should be kept under review. Maggie will be asked to attend the October meeting.
- Mike is currently finalising the 2018/19 accounts before sending them to William Clemmey for review.

**10. Group information:** Discussion was limited in John's absence. Thought was given to the agenda for the Group Leaders' Forum on 30<sup>th</sup> October and agenda items sought. It was suggested that the event start at 11.00 with lunch at 12.00.

**11. Membership:** Mary made the following comments:

- Membership stood at 1140 with 13 new members in August.
- 722 new membership cards have been issued.
- Eight new members have Gift Aided their subscription as have seven renewing members. It was noted that those members who have previously Gift Aided their subscription do not need to do so every year provided they have ticked the 'future years' box.
- The new online membership form does not have a tick box requesting a Gift Aid form.
- 422 members have not yet renewed and will have received a MailChimp this week. Those members who have not renewed will still receive the next issue of *Info*.

12. **ITT Report:** Sam had previously circulated his report and no discussion was required.
13. **TAT and correspondence:** Sue (Sheen) reported that there had been no TAT correspondence other than the newsletter which she circulates to the committee. Any committee member who receives this direct was asked to advise Sue of this so she does not duplicate. The TAT AGM resolutions were all non-contentious. There is no need to pay the CLA fee as it is a facility that is not used. Sue observed that TAT has an umbrella licence for screening films so why not one covering CLA?
14. **AOB:**
- Margot had received a phone call from Joyce Perrott who, with another member, is suggesting that Larry Treacy be offered Life Membership. He is a founder member and leads the bridge group. Sam was asked to check the database to see if there are others in a similar position. It was suggested that Life Membership could be presented at the GL Forum.
  - Margot sought, and was granted, permission to make a bid for volunteers for Citizens' Advice at the September Open Meeting.
  - Margot had received emails from a Group leader and a member of a group concerning a dispute which has resulted in the member being asked to leave the group. It was felt that the best way forward was to suggest to both people concerned that they sat down with Margot and perhaps a second member of the Management Committee to attempt to resolve the situation. It was felt that a procedure and appeals process were needed should a similar situation arise.
  - It was agreed to promote the Guys Cliffe Walled Garden at the Open Meeting.
  - Sam distributed the newly printed WDU3A leaflet.
15. **Date of the Next Meeting:** Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. Mike confirmed that the 2020 meetings were booked with The Moorings and Chris confirmed that both Dormer Place and the Spa Centre were booked for next year.