

THE MINUTES

Of the fourth meeting of the Tetbury and District U3A on 5th August at 2.00pm

Apologies were received from Carmel Burton

The minutes of the previous minutes were amended and approved.

Finance

More stringent conditions than anticipated have been received from National Office. These involve advance payments for the per capita charges based on the first 20 months of operations to be paid from only 12 months of membership. Alan Green has proposed a compromise which he is prepared to take to National Office on Friday 9 August.

A motion was proposed by Lawrence Moss and seconded by Pat Jackson:

“That we request a re- scheduling of the per capita charges in the first 20 months on the basis of the cash-flow (Exhibit A) and the following months:

Now current membership pro rata @ 66%

April 2020 march membership @ 50 %

September 2020 march membership @ 50%

April 2121 march membership @100%

Should this not be accepted, or a reasonable compromise offered by National office, then it is agreed we should call an immediate AGM, announce that due to lack of clear written or verbal instructions on payment terms from National Office we must either raise the membership fee to £20 immediately or close the U3A and return all the membership fees we can.”

This motion was passed unanimously. The meeting agreed and that any new significant expenditure should be halted but that membership fees could continue to be paid in. Douglas confirmed that the current positive balance was £1,807. He recommended that BACS be restored as a method of paying subscriptions. He also reported that the misunderstanding with Lloyds Bank over the name on our cheques appears to be reconciled. He also recommended “better cash discipline”

Groups

Pat Jackson reported that the group leaders training was relatively up to date”. She was congratulated and thanked for progress so far. She stressed the need to be kept informed of any changes. Lawrence stressed the importance of IT training for potential users.

Publicity

It was agreed that flyers were no longer cost effective especially as they were no longer printed free of charge from National Office. A poster for 18 September was circulated and Chair agreed to produce an A5 version. General posters were also suggested on normal paper especially if no photograph was involved. We still need to develop a list of helpers in outlying villages to help get posters up.

Anita agreed to get a poster up in the Goods Shed and Jeremy agreed to do a limited run of A5 flyers for the goods shed. Gill proposed an advertisement in "The Villager" and undertook to try and get funding for it from the Parish Council. Jeremy undertook to send her artwork with which to negotiate.

Jeremy agreed to send a "tickler" to all those who attended the first meeting but who had not yet signed up. Another idea was to encourage those for whom no leader had been found to take on the leadership themselves. Jeremy would prepare a table top presentation for 11 August showing groups needing a leader as well as current up and running groups.

A draft newsletter was circulated. The newsletter team was meeting post meeting to discuss content and roles. The newsletter needs to be out in less than a week and Jeremy would circulate a final draft for quick proof reading or amendment

Speakers

Anita provided a list of speakers and dates were agreed alternating between Wednesday and Thursday morning (Carmel's suggestion)

Reciprocal arrangements

Discussion was lengthy and there was some disagreement at the meeting and more post meeting when several members withdrew their support. Chair will find out what Malmesbury suggest (if anything) and report back. There is no rush in any case but there is a growing consensus that group leaders should not allow guests from other U3A's.

Governance by E mail

Chair made a plea for the normal civilities to be observed (he pleads guilty himself) and the need to avoid knee jerk reactions...perhaps re reading a draft later if the matter is contentious or important. Because things are moving fast we cannot wait for committee meetings sometimes. It was agreed that petty cash spending up to £20 would not require committee approval but should be reported to Douglas. Any substantial changes in policy should be referred to the whole committee, but common sense decisions within one's own responsibilities should be copied to those who need to know.

AOB: Riviera Travel

10% discount post travel will be denoted to our coffers (Anne is checking this) provided a member declares they are a member when booking. Jeremy proposes to check this and then put it in the newsletter

Next Meeting:

Date of next meeting - Monday 9 Sept, 1400 (chair to check with Carmel) Please log this in if you do not hear to the contrary

Prepared by Jeremy from notes provided by John and Douglas.