

MINUTES OF MEETING CONVENED BY LAWRENCE VIA ZOOM  
ON MONDAY, 6th APRIL, 2020.

PRESENT: Carmel, Lawrence, Gail, Caroline, Audrey, Douglas, Judith, Anita.

1. (a) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies for absence.

(b) MINUTES: the Minutes of the meeting held on Monday, 1st April, 2020 were discussed.

IT WAS PROPOSED by Gail and SECONDED by Lawrence that the Minutes be passed.

The Minutes were duly passed.

Following the Minutes, Carmel mentioned that Gill Parsons had intimated that she was resigning from the U3A altogether, which was regretted.

It was agreed that the Minutes should consist of a record of actual discussions that take place at a specific meeting.

If, subsequently, something that had been agreed and minuted at a meeting was, at a later date, changed then this change should either be noted as an addendum to the Minutes or included in the Minutes of subsequent Meeting.

2. FUTURE MEETINGS:

(a) Anita raised the question of possibly needing to cancel the Speaker booked for the July meeting, there being no meeting booked for August. Anita felt that, if a July meeting was possible, then that might well take the form of the AGM and a Speaker would not be needed as people would be anxious to socialise.

It was agreed that Anita should cancel the Speaker for the July Meeting and re-schedule for next year. If it was possible to meet in July or August, this could be a more social event.

Regarding the AGM, Anita asked if there was a legal requirement to hold the AGM at first available time. Lawrence and Douglas confirmed that there

was no pressure from N.O. (Lawrence) or legally (Douglas).

Caroline commented that attendance at AGMs was not normally very heavy so it would not be a priority with members, particularly as there were no contentious matters.

(b) it was decided that it was only necessary to convene a meeting of the Committee once a month as any Agenda would be short.

Next meeting to be held via Zoom on Monday, 4th May at 2pm.

### 3. CORONAVIRUS AND MEMBERSHIP EXTENSION:

Memberships are due for renewal on 1st August, 2020. It had previously been agreed that the membership subscription would be reduced to £12 per head.

Three points were raised by Lawrence for discussion:

- i. Do we renew July/August this year?
- ii. Do we defer renewal to later in the year or even 2021?
- iii. After renewal for the next year, do we make an adjustment to subscriptions?

There was a long discussion of the above and various options to take account of the current situation whereby there are no Group or Monthly Meetings.

Lawrence confirmed there is a renewal grace period on Beacon currently set to an eight-week default. This can be further extended if required, Changing the membership renewal date is possible, but more complicated (best avoided if at all possible),

Lawrence had asked N.O. if other local branches had enquired about renewal extensions. Some branches had mentioned it but it was not known if any decisions had been taken.

There has been no guidance on this point from N.O.

A change to the year end was discussed and reference made to previous discussions regarding this in earlier days, Douglas confirmed that it is possible to change the year end, but complicated. Payment has just been

made to N.O. and renewal subscriptions do need to be received before the next payment is due. Douglas said that we could afford to be generous, but within limits.

It was decided:

(a) There was no need to give prominence to any decision regarding delaying renewal of membership as the position is continually changing.

(b) A notice to go in the Bulletin to the effect that renewals will be dealt with in due course.

(c) Renewal subscriptions must be collected by the end of October at the latest. If thought necessary at the time, this could be at a reduced rate. See above.

(d) If any members raise the matter with Gail, she will deal with them on a one-to-one basis.

(e) Gail will speak individually to those members who joined between January and March regarding extension.

Caroline and Judith are preparing a new Bulletin which they will circulate to the Committee. The Committee is grateful to them.

#### 4. KEEP IN TOUCH:

The various systems to help members keep in touch are working. In addition, some Groups are in contact amongst themselves. Many who wish to keep in touch are on their own. Gail said that it is important to have as many alternative ways of communication as possible.

Audrey and Gail are putting emails, suggestions and requests on to the web site, once vetted.

Audrey has contacted all Group Leaders to make sure that the web site is up-to-date.

Gail has heard from two members of the Quiz group who want to keep in touch using Zoom and she is also considering various ideas and suggestions.

A.O.B.:

Anita raised the possibility, which has been mentioned before, of a lunch party in January, 2021. She has had discussions, via email, with Calcot Manor and they could provide a three-course lunch with coffee for around £25 per head in the Conservatory. She felt this was a better alternative to the Barn which entails an up-front hire charge of £200 and a minimum spend commitment of £1000. Anita will look further into any initial expenditure, commitment and minimum numbers.

Audrey asked for clarification of the duties involved in being a Trustee and Carmel will send her the papers on this. Carmel confirmed that there is no individual financial liability.

There were thanks all round and best wishes to Carmel and her daughter on the imminent birth of a grandchild on Wednesday.

THE MEETING CLOSED.