

MINUTES OF U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 25th JULY
2022 AT

NORTHFIELD ROAD AT 2pm.

PRESENT: Carmel Alan Audrey Bernadette Gail Judith Lawrence
Anita

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies for absence.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 23th June were discussed.

The names of the Office holders had been confirmed to National Office as requested.

The Committee was reminded that the next monthly meeting takes place on the date of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the u3a. Reference to be made to this at the meeting.

The Group Leaders' lunch had taken place and been a great success.

Richard Warrington from the Goods Shed had taken the opportunity to speak to Members following the monthly meeting as arranged in order to try to ask for new Trustees for the Goods Shed.

Lawrence had provided storage as asked for paper cups which had been ordered. Details of the Advanced Motorist courses had been published in the news letter.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY JUDITH AND SECONDED BY LAWRENCE:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23rd JUNE 2022 BE
PASSED AND APPROVED.

3. INTRODUCTION:

(A) NATIONAL OFFICE:

The Chair confirmed that the National Office AGM is to be held via Zoom and she will attend and report back to the Committee.

There were three major points on the Agenda:

i. Election of new regional directors. Our area had elected a new director a year ago so this does not affect our branch,

ii. A proposal to lengthen the time allowed under the constitution by which N.O. Committee members may hold a post. It was considered that, if this proposal were passed, similar extension should be granted to branch committees.

iii. It had been suggested that the subscription due to National Office should increase each year in line with the increase in State Pension.

The Committee felt that this was not acceptable. Increases should only be proposed due to increased costs. The State Pension is irrelevant. Any increase should be preceded by at least eighteen months' notice to take account of variations in the financial years of branches.

ACTION: The Chair undertook to draft an email to National Office covering these and other points.

(B) REVIEW OF PICNIC:

It was felt that the picnic had been a success and enjoyed by those who attended. The extreme heat had been a factor in attendance. It was considered that it would be worthwhile repeating the picnic next year.

4. FINANCE:

Back-up authorisation forms had been completed which gave sight of the social account to the Membership Secretary. The Chair also had sight and access. It was considered that this would help in coordinating payments for future events.

It was confirmed that in order to make a refund which is due, bank details would need to be obtained from the member concerned as we do not retain bank details of members.

The Treasurer had received the Gift Aid file which comes in a complicated form but is as required by the tax authorities. New details have to be established with HMRC and this is in hand.

It was confirmed that, once a Member has signed a Gift Aid form, that form remains valid each year with renewal of membership.

The Treasurer will prepare Annual Return in time for the AGM.

5. GROUPS:

Twenty-three Group Leaders attended the Leaders' lunch and enjoyed both the lunch and the trial bowling. Having an activity included was an added element in making the day a success.

There was no other specific news to report.

6. PUBLICITY:

A request had been made for a few details of the u3a to be included in a local brochure entitled "Holidays at Home". These had been provided.

A Member had raised the question as to whether our branch should have a presence on any of the Tetbury facebook pages. After discussion, and bearing in mind some of the recent unpleasantness experienced by some people, it was thought this would not be an appropriate move.

A list of the Speakers for 2023 is being printed and reprinting of brochures is in hand as needed.

7. MEMBERSHIP:

Membership is current 299.

A draft had been submitted of both a form to go out to Members for renewal of membership and also an acknowledging email. These of necessity have to be detailed in order to provide Members with options for payment. Members do need to confirm to the Membership Secretary that they have paid and their method of payment in order to keep full records and coordinate with bank statements.

It was confirmed that we should continue to print up and laminate the

Membership cards which include a bar code so that the card can be used for student discounts as these look professional. Also that postage costs should be avoided and cards handed to Committee for nearby distribution if not collected at the monthly meeting.

The Membership Secretary was thanked for the considerable amount of work she had undertaken.

8. BEACON AND WEB SITE:

(A) There had been some problems with the sound system at the last monthly meetings. Some of this was technical and some due to Speakers moving around whilst talking and therefore not speaking directly into the microphone. In order to rectify these problems as far as possible, a meeting was being set up at the Goods Shed with their experts and other interested parties.

ACTION: The Speaker Secretary to refer to these points in the reminder for the September meeting.

(B) Beacon, the u3a emailing system, has been behaving erratically and Group Leaders had found that in sending out emails to their group, emails had also been sent to other random Members. The Web Master had contacted the Beacon development team who confirmed that other branches had had the same problem and they were working to rectify this.

ACTION: The Web Master to send an email to all Members explaining the problem and the current situation.

9. SPEAKERS:

The Speaker Secretary confirmed that the September Speaker will require access to the piano. This has been arranged.

ACTION: A few more details about the musical talk to be provided by the Speaker Secretary to the News Editor.

10. NEWS LETTER:

The Tetbury Advertiser will not be published this month.

It was suggested that reference in the next edition should be made to our

new year and renewal of membership.

11. A.O.B.

The Chair reminded the Committee that at the next meeting time must be allowed for discussion of the AGM in November.

The next meeting to take place on Monday, 5th September at 2pm at Hardy Close.