

MINUTES OF MEETING OF TETBURY AND DISTRICT U3A
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MONDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY, 2023 AT UPTON MILL,
TETBURY AT 2PM.

PRESENT: CARMEL. ALAN. AUDREY. BERNADETTE. JUDITH.
LAWRENCE. MARTIN. ANITA.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

There were no apologies.

2. MINUTES OF MEETING OF LAST MEETING:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 9th January, 2023 were discussed and reviewed. All action had been taken as specified.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY JUDITH AND SECONDED BY
LAWRENCE:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 9TH
JANUARY, 2023 BE PASSED AND APPROVED,

3. INTRODUCTION:

The Chair presented a number of communications received from National Office.

(A). The National Office had asked for feedback on the branch's top three subjects of interest. It was difficult to list these but the meeting felt that possible increases by National Office of membership levie was our main point of interest.

(B). Grants are available for some major projects.

ACTION: Chair to check the policy on grants to see if it only applies to events encompassing the whole membership.

(C). National Office have asked Branches to share details of any particularly successful Speaker.

ACTION: Speaker Secretary to give names as above to Chair.

(D). National Office is still considering the formation of a National Council, possibly via a pilot scheme. This would consist of regional representatives and various chairs of specialist areas.

(E). Consideration is being given as to whether there should be a National Conference. It was assumed that attendees would be paid for by their Branch which the Committee felt was an unnecessary expense. Maybe such a Conference could be extended to Zoom attendees at a much lower cost.

(F). The Cotswold Link is holding its AGM and a number of seminars on dates in March which all proved difficult for Committee members to attend.

The Cotswold Link is looking for a new Committee member.

(G). Committee resignations: In view of the legal necessity for many of the Committee members to resign by the end of the year, it is hoped to co-opt a new Committee member at the next meeting in March, together with another member who may be interested in joining the Committee. Another member has expressed an interest in the technical aspects of the Committee. It was felt that in all cases there should be a wide recruitment policy.

The Committee then discussed the following two Agenda points in reverse order.

5. GROUPS' STATUS:

The new ukelele group is making progress although currently without a leader.

The new Italian group has a possible group leader.

Book group on Wednesday has room for further members.

ACTION: Group Leaders to be asked to let the Chair have information for announcements at monthly meetings.

(A). New Members' Coffee Morning: There was a comprehensive discussion of the arrangements. It was confirmed that the Goods Shed was booked for the morning of Monday, 20th March and arrangements made for opening and closing the Goods Shed and also with a Member regarding provision of coffee/tea. Committee members agreed to provide cakes and napkins and it was felt that use of the Goods Shed table cloths would provide a brighter atmosphere and a Committee member volunteered to wash them afterwards.

Invitations will go out from the Chair with RSVP so that the Groups Coordinator can be informed of expected numbers and also the Speaker Secretary so that she can ensure sufficient supplies.

The Group Coordinator will provide clip boards for Group Leaders and the Committee will undertake to circulate amongst members to make them welcome.

There will be three short speeches: a welcome from the Chair an explanation of Groups by the Group Coordinator and the Business Secretary will explain the website and news letter.

(B). Group Tables at monthly meetings: A power point presentation will be available at this month's meeting to complement the Group Leader's presentation.

(C). Membership Cards: The Business Secretary had produced a digital membership card which could be downloaded by members and put in a digital wallet. The Committee thought this was very smart.

Future discussion was agreed to take place upon the actual necessity of a membership card. Production of these cards entails considerable organisation and work and frequently members lose them or do not carry them. Simply asking members to keep a note of their membership number might be sufficient.

4. FINANCE:

The Membership Secretary had been looking at possible Associate Membership and the Committee felt it would be an interesting exercise to follow up.

ACTION: Membership Secretary will email members to enquire how many are full members of other u3a branches.

(A). Lloyds Bank Mandate: Paper work has still not been received. The Treasurer has been making weekly, personal visits to the Bank to chase this up.

ACTION: Chair will check that nothing has been sent to wrong email address.

(B). Proposed Budget: The Treasurer had produced a budget for 2023/4. This had been produced with a 'worst case' scenario regarding membership subscriptions.

A long and wide-ranging discussion followed principally concerning level of future subscription in order to make sure that a sufficient fund is kept in the Bank to meet commitments and also that this fund can be kept at the necessary level by ensuring that subscriptions and expenses balance,,

ACTION: The Treasurer will produce two projections showing different subscription levels.

(C). Discussion regarding use of Paypal for subscriptions was postponed to a future meeting. There was no urgency regarding this.

6. PUBLICITY:

The Publicity Secretary asked to be informed if it came to attention that brochures were needed at any venue.

7. BEACON AND WEBSITE:

The website was up-to-date. The Webmaster was complimented on the fact that the website is straightforward and simple to use and considerably superior to many others.

8. SPEAKER STATUS:

The Speaker Secretary asked if she could make enquiries at the Goods Shed regarding dates for 2024 as it would be necessary to start booking Speakers early in the Spring and definite dates would be needed. Permission was given.

ACTION: Speaker Secretary to contact Goods Shed Administrator regarding dates for 2024.

No specific budget was set for Speakers but the Speaker Secretary, in cooperation with her replacement for 2024,

undertook to look at extending the number of charity events, thus keeping costs down. The Groups Coordinator made a helpful suggestion regarding a charity. The Committee accepted that Speakers are needing to charge more and the Goods Shed is likely to need to charge more to cover its increasing costs.

9. NEWS LETTER:

The Editor confirmed that the deadline for inclusion of an article in the "Tetbury Advertiser" is early in the month. Details from Groups Leaders are still a little slow coming in.

ACTION: The News Letter Editor will email Group Leaders asking for news for inclusion.

A.O.B.:

The Group Leader asked if a note could be included in the Monthly Meeting reminder regarding the 'puzzle swap'. The Speaker Secretary undertook to do this.

The Web Master suggested that he should send details of the next tranche of Beacon tuitions to all members of the Committee as they covered wide subjects.

The next Meeting to take place on Monday, 27th March at 2pm at Hardie Close.

