

MINUTES OF U3A COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 5TH
SEPTEMBER, 2022 AT

HARDIE CLOSE, TETBURY AT 2PM.

PRESENT: Carmel Alan Audrey Bernadette Gail Judith Lawrence
Anita

Also present as observer: Martin Doidge

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: There were no apologies for absence.
2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday, 25th July were discussed.

The date of our next monthly meeting, 20th September, 2022 is also the 40th anniversary of the founding of the u3a. In the absence of the Chair:

ACTION: Vice Chair to mention the occasion in the introduction to the talk.

Also the Vice Chair was reminded to ask any members who cannot hear in the course of the talk to raise a hand so that the matter can be rectified.

The intention of National Office to raise subscriptions annually in line with increase in state pension: as agreed, the Chair had written to National Office to raise our objections to this. As other objections appear to have been raised, a new Resolution is being prepared which will be available this week and which the Chair will forward to Committee members for consideration and comment. The Chair will attend the National Office AGM, at which we have two votes.

The Webmaster reported that the glitch in the Beacon email system had been reported to National Office. They were aware of this and assure us it has now been rectified.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY LAWRENCE AND SECONDED BY JUDITH :

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER,
2022 BE PASSED AND APPROVED.

3. INTRODUCTION:

(A) Information had been received from National Office on several subjects, some of which were of interest.

(i) National Library week takes place shortly. It was confirmed that our brochures are displayed at the local library. It was mentioned that we used to have a poster which was changed each month showing date and subject of the monthly talk. It was felt that, if poster was required, a generic poster would be more productive and cheaper.

(ii) The u3a quilt is now on show in Witney.

(iii) The u3a copse is in the Brecon Beacons and can be visited.

(iv) After 31st January 2023, old-style first- and second-class stamps will no longer be legal although they can be exchanged at the post office for new ones which incorporate a bar code.

(v) There is to be a Special Interest Day next year and thoughts are solicited on a suitable subject.

(vi) There are on line workshops available:

22nd September - Keeping it Legal.

17th November - Interest Groups Matter.

The Cotswold Link newsletter is always available on line and we provide a link on our website.

Cotswold Link are also providing a face-to-face workshop on Contingency Planning for u3a Roles.

(vii) National Office are providing virtual Groups on specific interests. The object being to provide support for members who cannot find fellow members to form a group on a particular subject.

(B) A.G.M. - The AGM will be held after the talk on Tuesday, 15th November.

ACTION: Speaker Secretary to check with Goods Shed that we can stay

for an extra half-an-hour.

The Business Secretary confirmed that he has copies of the paperwork used for the last AGM and it was confirmed that it will only be necessary to repeat these forms with change of date. As Committee nominations have to be presented twenty-one days before the meeting, the latest date for sending out the AGM notice is 18th October.

ACTION: The Business Secretary will put together the necessary paperwork and send a draft out to Committee members by 19th September so that comments can be incorporated before final transmission to Members on 30th September.

It was confirmed that a short power point presentation would be needed and that the Committee needs to resign and fill in proposal forms for submission.

4. FINANCE:

The Treasurer produced figures to the end of August which show a very healthy balance which enables us to pay the subscription to National Office when due.

The only future costs are those incurred for the monthly meetings and speakers and for general expenses. An account is due for submission and payment for the cost of preparing membership forms, cards, etc.

The Business Secretary undertook to assist the Treasurer in submission of the Gift Aid application.

It was decided that it would be helpful if the total number of subscriptions received could be set out with an additional line for the payments received for TAM.

5. GROUPS:

A Member had asked to start a second Art Group as she was unable to attend the Tuesday group.

A suggestion had also been made to start a Public Transport group with members who wished to make excursions via public transport.

Later in the meeting, the Membership Secretary mentioned that a member had raised the possibility of a Christmas Day function aimed at single members which he was prepared to arrange. The Treasurer undertook to explain how to handle the finances for such an undertaking.

ACTION: Treasurer to speak to the member concerned as above.

Some groups currently had spaces for members and the Groups Coordinator, who is unable to attend the meeting on 20th September, handed a note to the Vice Chair so that this could be read out to Members.

6. PUBLICITY:

The Publicity Secretary had presented draft brochures to the Speaker Secretary and the Group Coordinator to check. These were approved and the Publicity Secretary thanked for her work.

500 brochures can be produced at a cost of £120. This expenditure was approved by the Committee.

Following subsequent discussion on distribution of brochures:

ACTION: The Publicity Secretary undertook to find out the price for an extra 100.

National Office had produced various papers on publicity, some of which were helpful and the Publicity secretary undertook to read through in detail.

Suggestions were made for a publicity drive in the entrance to Tesco. The Chair wondered if there was any evidence as to the effectiveness of such efforts.

It was also mentioned that doctors' surgeries were being urged to provide help for people who are lonely or need extra support. An approach to the Practice Manager could be made pointing out the benefits of membership of the u3a.

7. MEMBERSHIP:

Membership currently stands at 257 with some 31 outstanding. There had been some members who had resigned or not renewed and, sadly, a couple of deaths.

A reminder will be sent out as appropriate to those members who have not renewed and may simply be too busy or forgotten.

The Membership Secretary had prepared an email to go out to members reminding them to sign up to Gift Aid if possible. The gift aid form had of necessity been printed on a second page of the membership form and it was possible that some members had not seen it.

8. BEACON AND WEB SITE:

The Web Master reported that these are both up-to-date.

The question was raised of some Group details on the web site being out-of-date despite the Group Coordinator's frequent requests and reminders. Group Leaders have been given details as to how to up-date information on the web site. The Speaker Secretary felt that it would be preferable to have a simple, generic message with details such as "meet monthly" rather than irrelevant information.

The Web Master confirmed that the Group update system was on the web site, not Beacon.

9. SPEAKERS:

It was confirmed that all was in hand with monthly speakers.

Regarding the December lunch at Chavenage House, prices were in the pipe line but would obviously be considerably more than last year. Once received, these would be discussed with Committee.

10. NEWS LETTER:

The Editor confirmed that Group Leaders had been more forthcoming with information. A mention of the date of the Chavenage lunch (13th December) would be made to remind Members to put it in their diary.

11. A.O.B.:

There was no other business.

It was decided that the next Meeting should take place on Monday, 10th

October, 2022 at 2pm. at the Old Bowling Green, Cirencester Road, Tetbury.

John and Carmel were thanked for their hospitality.