

Minutes of Cheadle u3a Committee meeting
on Wednesday 11 August at 10 am in the Guild Hall

Present: Jenny Crump
Richard Moore
Val Egerton
Chris Beesley
Roy Scott
Marj Povey
Helen Wainwright
Trish Boit
Walter Jaggli
Alan Mendelson
Marian Corbishley

1. Apologies: Ann Mundy
Dawn Maley
Michael Prince

2. Agenda review. All fine.

3. Minutes of the last meeting were read.

Matters arising

a. Item f under AOB The answer as to whether the ukulele band can play at the Alton fete will be known on Thursday this week.

b. AGM – there was no need for Roy Scott to be involved with preparing the papers for the AGM as Ann did them. We need to ask Ann if the £300 on Frankie can be refunded and what has happened about Gift Aid. Loose ends need to be tidied up before Ann retires.

Action Ann

4. Treasurer's Report

it needs to be decided how we move forward. There are 3 options:-

a. Increase the membership fee to £20, £10 membership, £10 course fee

b. Increase course fee to £2

c. Have a lump sum payment of £50.

A discussion took place about methods of paying in. The Post Office do accept payments for Barclays. Clearly we can't have 50 paying in books. What do Uttoxeter do? Jenny to make enquiries. Walt said that Paypoint only charges 15p per £100. Alan said could Group Leaders bring the money to coffee morning? If they couldn't do it they could delegate. The new arrangements would have to begin in January 2022 because of the fact that Riley's would no longer accept the money in.

Would it be easier to have three or four paying in books for larger groups, Helen said that Alan and Barbara Lewis deal with the money for the ukulele group and perhaps someone could do the same for country dancing.

Action Jenny

Marian asked Richard to go with her to the building society to sort out the matter of signatures etc. This will be done after the committee meeting.

Action Richard and Marian

AGM – this should have been discussed at point 7 on the agenda but it was brought forward at this point.

It needs to be decided how we are going to phrase the problem to members at the AGM. They need to be made aware that:-

- a. The contingency fund needs rebuilding. This a Charity Commission requirement.
- b. Maintaining a supportive organisation
- c. Rents are rising and overheads
- d. Weekly running costs, printing, photocopying etc.

Alan Mendelson to be the spokesperson on this acting in the capacity of Assistant Treasurer.

The committee has read Ann's suggestion for a four tier membership fee and rejected it. Several members had said that there was insufficient notice of an AGM but it was felt this was not so.

It was decided to have next year's AGM in April to get things back on track.

The number of people retiring or leaving the u3a committee was discussed. We need to make presentations to Ann and Chris Brown, as well as Cedric and Jean Wilkinson, Grace Hughes, Lynn Smith, Margery Stanley, Margaret Prince and Liz Harris.

Roy Scott needs to update the list of Group Leaders and their email addresses.

Could a proxy vote be looked at? Richard thought at the moment it was not covered by the Consitution. We may have a problem if we are not quorate, we need 50 people. Roy to deal with this in the next edition of Enews.

The matter of coffee at the AGM was raised. Dawn to be approached as to her thoughts. The general feeling was that coffee morning are necessary and things should be normalised for the second Wednesday in October.

Action Val/Ann

5. Membership Secretary's report. Little change, membership still stands at 554.

6. Group Leader Co-ordinator's report:-

17 groups are now up and running, though it is hard for some of their members to gain the confidence to attend. I am trying to encourage the group leaders to carry on so that it will encourage others to come along. I try and attend at the beginning of the first session.

Michael and I have continued to review the Risk Assessments and to add covid-related instructions where necessary. Michael is working with the Leisure Centre manager to hopefully re-start badminton, bowls and table tennis in September all at the same time at favourable rates. The Leisure Centre are asking us to limit attendees so no-one is standing around.

Groups currently up and running are:- (in DAY order)

Rambling Group;
Tai Chi 1.,
Calligraphy;
Pub strolls;
Architecture (zoom);
Watercolours;
Model Makers;
Painting for pleasure;

Reading for Pleasure 1 and 2 (zoom);
Italian;
ukulele (outside);
Writing for Pleasure (zoom);
Melody Makers;
Drama;
Guitar;
Walking netball; Walking Hockey;
Cycling

Groups with a definite start date are:

Sewing and All Sorts of Craft (22.8);
Bird Watching (2.9);
Adobe Photoshop (7.9);
Chess (7.9);
Parchment Craft (8.9);
Tai Chi 2. (9.9.);
Card Craft (14.9.);
Singing for the Untuned (15.9);
Bridge (16/9);
Gardening (17/9),
Verse or Worse (28/9)

Other groups planning to start in September are

A Piece of Cake; Family History (3 groups);
Country Dancing (if we find a new leader) Writing for Beginners
Sugar Craft; Knit and Natter,
Art Club; Creative Photography 1

Folk Music Group; Social Sewing;
Digital Photography – Beginners Digital Photography 2;
Dining Club Cinema
Bowls, Badminton and Table Tennis Holidays and Trips

Ballroom Dancing – sadly Liz Harris has had to suspend this group due to ill health. If we can find the right person willing to lead this group, then it will continue!

The Country Dancing Group has a few people who may lead the group and I still have to get them together to discuss this.

I have so far failed to find group leaders for the French and Spanish groups, and for Computer basics, and also for the Short Walks group.

Venues

The Guild Hall is holding our slots. I do not know the position on the contract as I have never seen a copy.

The Cricket Club also continues to hold our slots and is sympathetic to the reluctance of some of our members to return to their activities.

Freehay Village Hall has been very helpful with their venue and if other venues fail, I think this is one we could use more.

The Fire Station is not yet available.

I have left boxes at The Guild Hall and Cricket Club containing wipes and spray for the use of our groups.

Margaret Prince has finished as group leader for one Badminton Group. I believe there is someone prepared to take her place.

FOT THE AGM :-

Retired Group Leaders

With reference to Ann's comments about cards to be presented at the AGM, I list below the names I have:-

Cedric and Jean Wilkinson,

Grace Hughes,

Lynn Smith

Margery Stanley,

Margaret Prince

Liz Harris.

Also need reference to the late Sue Fraser

And thanks to Joyce Burton for distributing jigsaws during the whole closure time.

Thanks to Walt for his instruction on the entering of group details on the website. It has been tricky to keep track of planned re-starts.

Vaughan of the Model Makers group asked if they could have a magazine. He had raised the matter of flyers to recruit new members his group came up it was decided that 200 would not be sufficient. It appears he wanted to target Uttoxeter and Leek u3as.

Helen reported that the Fire Station would not be available for groups for some time. Mike Bridgewater of St. Giles The Abbot had told Roy that they had two rooms which potentially could be used for meetings. No idea as to cost. We could also investigate the old ambulance station and JCB.

Group leaders to be reminded about BCCing emails to their members.

7. Webmaster's report.

Walter is busy updating the website and this would be up and running by the end of the year.

8. PAT testing. Tim Mundy is prepared to do this but for u3a equipment. This will be done in the autumn/winter. Roy and Walter to ensure that items requiring testing are assembled when a date is known.

Action Tim Mundy, Walter Jaggli and Roy Scott

9. AOB

Cheadle is to become a dementia aware town. Mike Bridgewater has requested a u3a member be on the forum, Roy Scott volunteered.

Action Roy

Phone numbers, Alan had been approached for a member's telephone number, He said he was unable to supply this because of GDPR.

Recruitment. This needs to be addressed. A gala evening of music was suggested. In the past the Methodist Church has been used to highlight what we do but there is not really enough space for this. The problem was then raised about people being able to get on the group of their choice

because some groups were full. Perhaps some groups could offer a six week taster and then things moved on. A sub committee to deal with this was suggested and will be formed after the AGM.

Zoom license. This needs to be discussed and a charge made for those who attend sessions.

A change of day for the committee meeting was discussed briefly, this might not be easy. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 29 September at 10 am in the Guild Hall.

10. Date of next meeting – Wednesday 29 September at 10 am in the Guild Hall.