

Basingstoke – Old Basing u3a Committee Meeting

1st July 2022

William Tyndale Room, Christ Church Chineham

Attending – Rod Marshall, Janet & Richard Field, Sue Seamour, Margaret Hayes, Linda Wain, Madeline Hussey, Liz Horner, Marie White, Audrey Bird

Also attending – Elaine Budd, Tony Summers, John Ranson who may be voted on to the Committee

1. **Apologies for absence** – Apologies received from Janice Vaughan.
2. **Approval of meeting minutes 14th April 2022** – The minutes were agreed and will be signed at a later date.
3. **Open Actions** – It was decided that the quiz will be deferred until a later date. Elaine said there has not yet been any progress with contacting companies. It was agreed that the Health Check will be discussed at the next committee meeting. Rod asked if we should put a complaints procedure on the website and Janet confirmed that this is in hand. Margaret informed the Committee that the next Group Leader meeting will take place after the AGM.
4. **End of year accounts and Treasurer's report** – Sue had distributed the accounts and the Treasurer's Report to the committee prior to the meeting. She confirmed that the accounts had now been approved by Ray Wilshaw.

Budget for 2022/2023 – Sue said we have £46,209.63 at present in our account – far more than the £15,000 required by our Reserves Policy. This extra money is largely due to the fact that, with Covid, our venue costs for the year were much lower than anticipated. Sue said the amount we pay for venues next year will increase greatly and she will be keeping an eye on Christ Church where we have a good rate for hiring at the moment. Old Basing British Legion are putting their rates up by 20% and St Leonard's 10%. Overall, she has budgeted that the cost of venues will increase by 15% and that membership will increase by 5%. Richard confirmed that membership numbers are continuing to increase but we already know of some members who will not be renewing in September. Elaine asked if we do a yearly review with venues - Linda and Janet confirmed one was done last year.

Membership fee for 2022/2023 - Sue asked the committee for a decision on membership fees for this year. After a lengthy discussion, Richard proposed £45 which was seconded by Madeline. It was noted that, if we were to charge a fee in line with expected costs for the year, it would be £57.

Expensive Groups – Sue set the ceiling at £35 per member per annum to establish what were “expensive groups”. Some dance groups and language groups would be classed as expensive and Sue said that if these Groups could reduce their costs the saving could amount to £3,000 per annum. Savings could be made in a number of ways: reducing the frequency of meetings, moving to cheaper venues or using Zoom. Otherwise the members of expensive groups would be asked to pay a surcharge.

After a lengthy discussion the committee agreed that they would approach the Group Leaders to explain the position. It was proposed that the Groups

concerned would have to complete their review before the end of 2022. If the cost could not be brought below £35 per member per annum then a surcharge would be introduced. The committee will have ongoing discussions with the Group Leaders as cost reduction proposals are put forward.

Reserves Policy – Sue did not suggest any change to the Policy and this was agreed.

5. **Associate membership** – Rod asked the committee's opinion on allowing members of other u3as to join ours for a reduced fee. After a short discussion the proposal was turned down.

Membership cards – The committee agreed that these were not necessary.

Yearbook – Marie asked if it would be possible to go back to having printed Yearbooks given to members as she knows of a few people, including herself, who would appreciate this. The Committee felt this was an unnecessary expense as copies are emailed to all members and printed copies are available on request.

Safeguarding Policy – Subject to Elaine being voted on to the committee at the AGM, she is happy to be the u3a contact for this.

New Members Meeting – This will be held on 8th August 2022 at Kempshott Village Hall. Members who have joined since mid-November 2021 will be invited.

6. **Monthly meeting handover/future** – Linda and Janet will be co-ordinating this. The Meet and Greet will be overseen by Janet and Elaine. New members will be in the hands of Janice. An overall co-ordinator of the monthly meetings who is also a committee member is a position that needs to be filled and it was suggested that we should say at the AGM that if the post is not filled then the monthly meetings will cease. She confirmed that around 80 to 90 members typically attend the monthly meetings. Rod will circulate to the committee an email to members before the AGM headed "Do you value your Monthly Meeting" or something similar.
7. **AGM** – The July monthly meeting will start with Joyce Cook speaking from 2 to 2:30pm. The AGM will start at 2.45p.m. The papers have been sent to all members and Janet confirmed that at the present time 36 members have said they are going to attend while 22 members will be joining on Zoom, which means that we are not yet going to be quorate - we need at least 73 members to attend. Neither Richard nor Janet felt that we would not get sufficient attendees however, as the reminder Janet was soon going to send out would bring more acceptances.
8. **National u3a** – Our u3a has 3 votes which Janet registers online. The Vice-Chair is the only position to be filled and there is just one candidate for this position, Alan Walmsley. Janet read out his resume to the committee and all committee members voted for Janet to vote for him.
9. **Marketing meeting feedback** – Madeline had to leave the meeting early but she had circulated the minutes of the last Marketing Meeting to the committee beforehand. Before she left the meeting, she confirmed that all is in hand for the Meet and Greet day on 14th September. Janet added that we had learned a lot of lessons from last year, one of which is that entry times could be staggered as it was chaotic at 2p.m. last year.

Janet and Richard will be doing a presentation to McCarthy and Stone and are expecting up to 40 people to be present.

- 10. Groups Sub-committee feedback** – Marie reported that Richard has had an interesting discussion with the History Group and a Local History Group may be set up. We are likely to have a new Book Club which Janet and Elaine will organise. Janet has had a positive response from 79 members to her initial email, many more than she anticipated. She thinks that using the email is a good way of initiating new Groups.

The problems arising with Needles and Pins and Patchwork have been resolved but there is a problem with Mahjong which the Committee discussed and advised the best way forward, which Marie will report back.

- 11. AOB** – Margaret is coming off the Committee this year but confirmed that she is happy to help out where she can. The Zoom contract is coming to an end and she asked the Committee to confirm if we still need two contracts. It was agreed that we do and were pleased to learn that Margaret gets a 20% discount on hers.

Marie would like to receive a copy of the TAMS magazine which she says has a lot of interesting articles. She said that a few other members would be pleased to see this reinstated too. The Committee felt that this was not a practical option however. Rod gets a copy through his membership of another u3a however and will forward each issue to Marie.

Date of next meeting – 2nd August 2022 at 2p.m.

Actions: **Rod** to circulate a draft email before the AGM re the Monthly Meeting
Co-ordinator vacancy
Elaine to contact companies
Janet to arrange a Group Leader meeting after AGM
Marie to report back to Mahjong

Minutes taken by Brenda Austin