

## **Basingstoke - Old Basing U3a Committee Meeting**

**14<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**William Tyndale Room, Christ Church, Chineham**

**Attending:** Rod Marshall, Margaret Hayes, Janet & Richard Field, Linda Wain, Madeline Hussey, Janice Vaughan & Audrey Bird

**In attendance:** Elaine Budd

Rod opened the meeting by introducing Elaine to the Committee. Elaine was attending as we anticipate her taking over the position of Business Secretary from Janet at our AGM.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Jo Dawber, who has expressed an interest in joining the committee, had sent her apologies. Sue Seamour let us know that she was unwell, and Liz Horner was unable to attend due to problems at home.
2. **Approval of meeting minutes – 1 March 2022:** The minutes were approved and signed.
3. **Open actions:** Richard is now trained on Beacon. Linda thanked Richard for his help in solving issues which she has been working on for some time. It was agreed that, after the Easter break, Rod would contact the Beacon help desk and ask them to give Richard full administrative authority.

Janet confirmed to Audrey that the issues raised by Joyce Cook regarding Facebook have been resolved.

Linda has booked a speaker for the May meeting, an ex-barrister, and it was agreed that Joyce would be invited to speak at the AGM, with a time limit of 20 to 30 minutes. Audrey said the subject of Joyce's talk could be her time spent in Cyprus or her experience as a tour guide.

Richard has emailed all Group Leaders regarding assets but has received no response. He suggested that we purchase a printer and Margaret said that a laser printer, although more expensive to purchase, would be a better option in the long run as it would be cheaper to run. It was felt that for marketing this would be very useful. Janice confirmed that she would be happy to provide a home for the printer. Madeline pointed out that we are hoping to encourage younger, newly retired, members who will not be inclined to use paper but it was agreed that Richard will look into costings and report back.

4. **Treasurer's report:** Sue had distributed the report to the Committee prior to the meeting and there were no comments. Janice confirmed that the Sum-up card machine has been tried out and it works. Receipts can be issued if required. There is also a programme to check to see who has paid which will be of great help when members renew subscriptions.

5. **Feedback from Lychpit meeting:** Linda reported that it was a successful meeting with 32 people attending. Several members asked about the possibility of having Pilates, Yoga or Zumba classes. Rod raised the option of hiring tutors (who would have to be self-employed), though the u3a nationally is not keen on this. Linda said using Mirthy for our monthly meetings worked well and we could use their online sessions, but Madeline pointed out that the reason for having groups is so that members can mix: there was little point if members were exercising in their own homes, which they could do at any time. Richard suggested doing some market research to see how many members would be interested but Rod pointed out that although people say they are interested, often they do not actually attend the groups. Marie suggested asking if any members are qualified in any of these activities and would be willing to run a group if their insurance would allow.

Linda said she had received one complaint about Bridge Improvers where a member wanted to join this Group but was told that they would have to attend the Beginners Group first. Richard said he can see the reasoning behind this and apparently the Group Leader will be giving this up soon.

Rod said that before Covid, it had been suggested that we have a Barn Dance or Quiz night and asked the Committee if they felt this should go ahead now. Janet said a Quiz night had been arranged prior to Covid but had to be cancelled. Margaret commented that Mel McMahan would have to be involved. It was suggested that people bring their own food, or we could take pre-orders for things like fish and chips. Linda suggested Lychpit Hall for a venue. Janet said the questions would have to be relatively easy. Rod suggested teams of 6, including up to two non-members so the event could be as for marketing too. The Committee agreed to go ahead with a quiz, probably in August.

“Current Affairs” has been suggested as a new Group. Janet felt it would be helpful to have a meeting with those interested in this Group to discuss how it might work. Margaret said a lot of Groups run well by committee but you do need a contact for the Group.

Linda said three members had shown an interest in joining the Committee one at a time on a rolling year basis but Margaret pointed out that they should have some expertise to offer. Linda will look into this and report back.

6. **Succession planning responses:** Janet confirmed that we can have up to 12 Trustees and 3 co-opted members on the Committee. Rod asked all Committee Members present to confirm whether or not they wished to remain on the Committee for another term. Janet, Richard, Audrey and Janice are happy to continue as is Madeline, though Madeline commented that she is not interested in social media. Margaret said she wanted to step down, though she will continue as a member of our u3a and will continue to run her groups. Under the terms of our Constitution, Linda, Marie and Liz have to step down.

Rod asked if anyone would be willing to form a sub-committee to take over Linda's role and Janet, Richard, Elaine and Audrey volunteered. It was agreed that this is a good opportunity to look at updating the role.

7. **Marketing meeting feedback:** Madeline feels we should try to attract younger, newly retired members. Elaine mentioned that some companies run Retirement Planning courses which we could approach to see if the u3a could be mentioned as part of this. She will look into this and report back.

Madeline suggested that we try to get our big functions such as the Picnic in the Park mentioned in the Gazette newspaper in a spread.

Janet went to the Basingstoke Voluntary Association recently and they didn't know anything about the u3a, but once she enlightened them the people seemed interested.

Elaine offered to sit in on the Marketing Sub-Committee which Madeline was grateful for.

Janet told us there is a Jubilee Grant available which has to be applied for by the end of April. After discussion it was decided that we wouldn't apply for this however.

Janet and Richard will not be available for the Picnic in the Park on 8<sup>th</sup> June but they are happy to prepare the "goody bags".

8. **Groups sub-committee feedback:** Marie said three areas were discussed: Groups that could be split, Groups that would be popular, and discussing how to deal with problems. Richard has spoken to the History Group. Marie said that numbers attending have dropped since the meetings are resumed being face to face. Madeline will contact the Science and Technology Group Leader.
9. **Help – what do we mean:** Richard wondered if a list could be collated of ways in which members can offer help such as putting out the chairs at meetings and car park duties. Committee members are to send Richard ideas of where help could be used.
10. **Strategy:** It has been agreed to aim for a 5% increase in numbers next year, taking us up to around 780 members.
11. **Health check:** National u3a have produced a health check list and Janet suggested that a meeting be held to go through this. Margaret, Marie, Audrey and Janice all offered to help.
12. **AGM:** The AGM will be held on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022, but Janet and Richard will be away. Linda/Audrey will speak to Joyce to invite her to do a talk immediately after the AGM, lasting 20 to 30 minutes. The AGM will be held at Queen Mary College and we need at least 72 members to be quorate.
13. **A.O.B:** Rod reminded us that we should have had a Christmas lunch at the Bolton Arms in Old Basing last year. This was cancelled due to Covid but they still have his deposit. It was agreed that we will have lunch on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2022 if the pub does food on Mondays, and Rod will investigate this.

Janet asked if we do TAM now and Rod confirmed that we don't.

Margaret will arrange another Group Leaders meeting soon.

**14. Date of next Meeting:** 9:30 am on Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> July, at Christ Church.

**Actions:**

**Rod** – contact the Beacon help desk to maximise Richard's authority

**All** – Send a list to Richard with ideas of ways members can offer help

**Richard** – To cost a laser printer and report back

**Linda** – To look further into the three members wishing to join the Committee on a rolling yearly basis and report back

**Janet** – To arrange sub-committee meetings to discuss taking over Linda's role and our health check

**Elaine** – To look into introducing the u3a to companies through Retirement Planning courses and report back

**Linda/Audrey** – To ask Joyce if she would be willing to give a talk at the A.G.M.

**Janet** – to arrange new goody bags for 8<sup>th</sup> June

**Rod** – to check lunch arrangements with the Bolton Arms