

**Pocklington & District U3A
Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 17 February 2021, 10.30 a.m.
Online meeting via Zoom**

Present: Graham Ball (Chair)
Chris Mills (Past Chair)
Ron Tinkler (Secretary)
David Hebden (Treasurer)
Moira Laverack (Membership Secretary)
John Senior
Liz Dearsly
Paul Giles
Rosemary Hutchinson
Rosemary Waugh
Steve Fraser (President)

1. Introduction/Welcome

GB welcomed members and opened the meeting.

- a. Apologies for absence had been received from Elizabeth Walker.
- b. It was recorded that David Stone has resigned from the Committee with immediate effect.

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21/1/21 were read and accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

There were no matters arising which were not already scheduled for discussion.

4. Treasurer's Update (DH)

- a. The treasurer's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.
- b. The P&D u3a seems in a sound position to cover all current commitments. Capitation to the TAT will be paid in arrears, in June, based on the membership as at 31 March. The magazine subscription is paid quarterly, and has recently been reduced due to a decline in numbers taking the magazine.
- c. LD is holding the float for the New Members' account. There is no current float held for the Drop-ins.
- d. Some monies are currently held for groups, e.g. refunds for pool hire and hall hire cancelled due to Covid. There was some discussion as to what can or should be done with these. One charity can only donate to another, under TAT ruling, if the recipient is a national and registered charity. It was agreed by show of hands that the P&D u3a would continue to look after these funds until such time as the groups involved should restart, and, if a group does not restart, to absorb them into u3a funds.

- e. Payment had been made for the Current Affairs Group to hire a hall, which had not in the event been used. It was agreed that if the group does not resume, this should be written off as loss.
- f. The membership account fund current balance is £3561.04. ML is holding £155 to be banked.

5. Membership Secretary's update (ML)

- a. Membership is static at 681. Four new members have joined since January 1st. There have been 77 renewals, a pleasing display of loyalty, and the town "collection points" system has worked well.
- b. The committee were thanked for their support in handling announcements of the deaths of members.
- c. There have been few costs except postage.
- d. Stripe is working well, handling the payments for new members only as the system cannot manage two different amounts.
- e. Recruitment and retention. ML is looking at the national picture and preparing a document to be circulated. Retention is more of an issue for P&D u3a than recruitment; ML and RT will consider the composition of a re-recruitment letter for lapsed members. It was suggested that Group Leaders could be instrumental in reminding members to re-register and in pursuing lapsed members. The legal consideration of use of lapsed members' personal data was questioned: ML confirmed that lapsed members knew their data were stored in archive, and that they can be used for u3a purposes.
- f. A meeting, virtual if live cannot be permitted, can be arranged for all Group Leaders at which these issues can be discussed.

6. Secretary's update (RT)

- a. RT has attended an online TAT seminar on recruitment and retention, which discussed how to generate and support participation in u3a. A 'Toolkit' for this is shortly to be published on their website, covering many aspects which might be of use or interest to the Committee. A particular aspect of concern to TAT has been a decline in new younger members; it is felt that this generation is more used to using social media for introductions to organisations, rather than the u3a traditional word-of-mouth publicity.
- b. Rising from the previous comments, the question of recruitment to the Committee was raised; should committee members be recruited for specific skills, to encourage development of a professionalism in the running of affairs? It was felt that this is always a potential problem with voluntary organisations where participation depends on goodwill. The traditional 'shadowing' of roles to ensure smooth succession has of necessity been halted by the Covid situation. All committee members can try to promote positively the values of the committee and its roles within their own groups.
- c. RT had received a request from Yorkshire Region for the P&D u3a to take part in a survey with the Cancer Research | Foundation. However, this will

have to be officially sanctioned by the Ethics Committee at National level before it can proceed.

- d. Due to changes in computer technology, the Adobe Flash programme which has been used to download mass sets of images is no longer supported. WDY have quoted £400 + VAT for a solution to this, which was felt to be excessive for a programme used only four or five times a year. When Beacon 2 becomes live, there will be access to their website for this service, so only a temporary solution is needed. Both JS and RT will research possible solutions and report back to the Committee.

7. AOB

a. Committee 2021/22 (GB)

GB, PG and SF will be standing down at the end of this administrative year, having completed their terms of office. This will leave nine continuing members, with no chair or vice-chair. It was agreed by all that the best solution would be to ask a previous chair to return for a further term, as there is no one who has the experience to take over at once. Two names were put forward and after some discussion it was agreed that both candidates would be approached informally and sounded out as to their willingness and availability to agree to serve.

All committee members were asked to try to raise interest in others, as there will be up to four vacancies for new members.

b. AGM (RT)

Committee members were told that there will be three questions to consider, which will need to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

- i) Confirmation of the Examiner of accounts
- ii) Level of members' subscriptions for 2022/3: the TAT capitation rises from £3.50 to £4.00 at this point, there will be £1p.c. for Beacon and £2.50 for the TAM. The current fee has been in place for at least four years.
- iii) When and how the AGM should be held: six weeks' notice are constitutionally required. A Zoom meeting has a maximum of 100 addresses allowed. Should we wait in hope of an IRL meeting – and if so, will there be problems finding a venue?

c. Beacon (ML)

Beacon has notified that "Our Beacon journey is ready to start". The sub-committee is meeting next week to look at timescale and details of the joining – it was suggested that this might be an opening to attract new interest in Committee membership from anyone who has skills in this area. We may be fully involved by the end of August/September.

The current site administrator is Brian Snelson, with ML as understudy.

There being no further business raised, the meeting closed at 12.26.

8. Date of next meeting Wednesday 17th March 2021, 10.30am via Zoom