

**Pocklington & District U3A  
Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021, 10.30 a.m.  
Online meeting via Zoom**

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

1. Introduction/Welcome

GB welcomed members and opened the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Paul Giles and Elizabeth Walker

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 April were read, and an amendment made to the recording of the cash balance. This having been corrected, the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was proposed by JS and seconded by DH.

3. Matters arising

- a. GB reported that the Methodist Church would theoretically be available for a physical AGM, and the upgrade of the audio-visual system had been carried out. This was to be further discussed later in the meeting.
- b. Andrew Smith has been appointed as Examiner of Accounts for the current year. DH will contact him and supply the necessary documentation.
- c. YAHR - AGM CM had attended for P&D but had been unable to stay for the entire meeting.

4. Treasurer's Update (DH)

- a. The current total of all balances is £12,780. This includes subs received for the current year, of £4,347.
- b. Payments to TAT for this year are £3,859.
- c. Total expenses last year were c. £900. This compares with £3,900 for 2020/21, and £6,000 for 2019/20. This looks healthy, and there is still expectation of more new members, but we should pass the option of a raise in the membership fee at the AGM.
- d. The outstanding dispute of a £16.50 invoice from ERYC has been settled.

5. Membership Secretary's update (ML)

- a. The current membership stands at 577. There is steady growth, and it seems realistic to expect around 600 members for this year. Renewals are continuing, and it is anticipated there may be a surge after social distancing restrictions end in June.

- b. Given the large numbers, it is important to keep contacts personal and encourage new members to give commitment to the u3a idea as a whole, not just joining single activities. Nationwide, it seems some much smaller branches have greater involvement for individuals. The experience of the last year may have changed people's perspectives on social involvement.
- c. The new members, 21 so far, have been pleased to be contacted. It is hoped that an outdoor meeting can be held with them on West Green, hopefully before the May Bank Holiday.
- d. JS is involved in discussions about a logo/ poster for recruitment purposes.

At this point CM had to leave the meeting.

- e. Beacon. The subcommittee met on Monday to discuss the current situation, and the hiatus of Beacon 2 which is involved in litigation. However, this does not affect P&D's commitment to Beacon 1, which is in the final stages of planning.
  - i. We shall have to maintain our own website for the foreseeable future.
  - ii. WDY will be kept informed of all progress.
  - iii. Beacon will offer a dedicated membership website from which it will be possible to generate reports, group lists etc.
  - iv. Brian Snelson is looking to recruit a co-worker who can help dealing with the administration, programming and security issues.
  - v. After seeing our data in situ, ML requested agreement to P&D going live on Beacon 1 on Monday August 2<sup>nd</sup>. This was agreed nem con.

#### 6. Secretary's update (RT)

- a. The next postal communication will be despatched shortly.
- b. There has been a good response so far from the Group Leaders after they were contacted, and there seems to be general optimism and positivity. They will be asked for lists of their group members.
- c. JS notified the committee that he proposes the setting up of a new group for Aeronautics and Space. This can now be announced through the Chair at the next Drop-in, and publicised through e-mail, which has worked well for disseminating news during the lockdown period.
- d. The desirability of a list showing which groups have vacancies and which are fully 'booked-up' was raised; it was felt that this could best be completed in July/August when many groups are less active. GLs will be asked then for this information so that a list can be produced.

#### 7. AOB

- a. AGM. There is a strong preference for a physical AGM to be held, and with this in mind the date of Thursday, 22 July was agreed, provisionally upon the Methodist Church being available.
  - i) The possibility of streaming the meeting was discussed; equipment is available, but there may be a constitutional problem as streaming would not permit watchers to vote on any issue. This would mean that such members could only be in attendance rather than present. The possibility of recording the meeting and then posting it was also discussed.
  - ii) With socially distanced seating, the venue should be able to hold around a hundred, which is the usual attendance. However, some members may still

choose to avoid large public meetings. For a membership of 600, the quorum would be 34.

- iii) RT will produce a plan/timeline of all which needs to be done before the meeting, with guidance from TAT when necessary.
  - iv) The wording of a resolution for introducing a rise in membership fee was discussed. While £10 has been the rate for several years, it was recognised that many venues and other suppliers are likely to be raising costs after a year of relative inactivity, and subscribing to Beacon will be another expense. After some discussion it was agreed that £12 for all would be a reasonable charge.
  - v) It is hoped that the ukulele group will be keen to provide entertainment.
  - vi) It was agreed that it would not be appropriate to invite a guest speaker this year.
  - vii) The catering situation will be investigated as regards provision of tea and biscuits.
- b. Venues. Many venues in Pocklington are open again, with necessary strictures and protocols in place. Group Leaders who use other venues will be asked to ascertain the situation and advise the Committee of the situation.
  - c. Facebook page. JS has nominated a contact who may be moderator for a P&D site: he will be invited to attend an informal meeting with JS, RT and RH to discuss the proposal.
  - d. Following various discussions about the Burnby Hall Drop-in sessions, it was agreed that perhaps the whole set-up should be considered as we plan post-lockdown reconnection. This would include trying to persuade more Group Leaders to attend, perhaps on timed slots during the morning.

There being no further business raised, the meeting closed at 12.09

- 8. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 16<sup>th</sup> June, at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom or on Tuesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> June at the Station Hotel, tbc.