

Pocklington & District U3A
Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday, 16 January, 10.30 a.m.
Pocklington Scout Hut, Burnby Lane

Present: Neil Barrett (Chair)
Les Smith (Vice Chair)
Graham Ball (President)
Christina Burn
Simon Eggleston
Pauline Slater
Margaret Stubbs
Ralph Vokes
Rosemary Waugh (Secretary)

1. Introduction/Welcome and Apologies for absence (NB)
 1. Apologies had been received from DH, JC, JK, JS, and ML .
2. Approval of Notes of December 2023 meeting.
 1. Proposed by LS, seconded RV
3. Matters arising from Notes of previous meeting (NB)
 1. There had been no update in the situation with WDY; CS will be arranging a meeting but has been prevented so far by circumstances and by the Christmas break.
 2. The controversy at the Art Group seems to have subsided.
4. Chairman's Report (NB)
 1. DH has taken agency in the copyright payment situation, and it appears to have been sorted. The recent ACCORD meeting had discussed the question of paying for copyright issues, and there had been a general agreement to leave it in abeyance rather than actively pursue it.
 2. Two other issues were brought forward from the ACCORD meeting:
 1. LS has been nominated as the contact point for notifying of vacancies in our groups: a central ACCORD database will be established. The question was raised of whether members who join a group in another branch would be expected to pay for membership of the other branch. There was agreement that membership subs should not be asked for two branches, but visiting members of another branch should expect to pay 'at the door' in groups which operate such systems.
 2. ACCORD would like to set up a register of good local speakers, to be shared between all the member branches. It was agreed that this was a good idea, and MS was asked to take on the task of assembling a contact list.

5. Group Activity (LS)

1. Group Co-ordinators were reminded that they should be seeking quarterly returns from their Group leaders, giving details of the numbers, the leadership, any vacancies, and whether the group is in fact still thriving!
2. There has been a request from the Red Sky ukulele group, who would like to purchase a PA system with amplifiers and microphones, as they are performing in increasingly large venues, and raising money for charity. The current system is not adequate for their needs. A new system would cost approximately £800.

Some concerns were expressed about:

The cost of insurance for a new system

The need for secure storage

The accessibility for use by other u3a groups.

It was agreed that Martine Bantinck would be asked to prepare a detailed proposal covering these aspects, to be presented at the next Committee meeting.

3. With the loss of two committee members, there are now five co-ordinators covering nine 'bunches' of groups, and the size of the bunches varies a lot. LS proposed a redivision of the groups, along alphabetical lines, and a re-sharing of the responsibilities, and will aim to bring a proposal to the next meeting.

6. Treasurer's update (RW in absentia DH)

1. DH had sent his report, as follows:

"Normally at this time of year I clear out the subscriptions account as anything received from now on will be regarded as Subs for 2024/25.

As a result our reconciled balances when any outstanding cheques have cleared, stand at:

Main Account £7097.98

Subscriptions A/c £12.00

Total Bank £7199.98

Treasurer's Petty Cash £64.40

Drop-In Teas £30.26

Renewal Desk Floats £135

New Member Float £20

Total Cash £259.86

At the time of writing (Wed 10th) the latest Invoice I have from ERYC for Burnby Hall is £58.28 for November's Drop -in. (so Dec & Jan are still to be sent) and I'm still awaiting an invoice from Dean for the latest Handbooks which should be about £105."

7. Membership Secretary's update (CB/RV)

1. There are currently 750 members on roll, and a further 19 new members who will be included after the renewals commence.
2. New members will be sent a PDF of the members' handbook, unless they do not have internet access; As each paper copy costs about £2, these will be reserved for use on the desks at Drop-ins. An updated PDF can be distributed every three months.

3. Renewals organisation. All seems to be in good order for the renewals meetings; GH,NB, ML, SE, David Burns and Elizabeth Walker will all assist with the process and with queue control.
 4. Complimentary copies of the TAM have been offered to branches. RV agreed to accept these.
8. Secretary's update (RAW)
1. Members were reminded that our next Committee meeting will be at the Rugby Club, and at 10 a.m., on an experimental basis to decide whether this would be a better venue in future.
 2. Sending mass emails. There has been an issue when sending emails through Beacon to all the membership, in that replies have come to the sender's personal rather than the u3a designated mailbox. However CB reported that Brian Snelson has resolved this for her, and can do the same for others.
 3. CPR Training. Another CPR session has been arranged, for Wednesday March 27th. DH will provide fuller details later.
9. AOB
1. NB proposed a vote of thanks to John Senior and Jane Cole, both of whom are leaving the Committee after valuable commitment and service. All present supported the motion wholeheartedly.
 2. Recruitment to Committee. As we now have three vacancies on the committee, RW proposed that instead of just waiting until the AGM, we should invite anyone interested to attend a meeting as a guest, to find out more, and that we could all actively buttonhole members who might seem likely. This was agreed.
 3. The date of the 2024 AGM will be Thursday, May 23rd. The format will need to be discussed and agreed , and will be on the agenda for next meeting. iGB agreed to book the venue.
 4. It was brought to notice that the kitchen helpers and washers-up at Drop-ins have felt undervalued and unappreciated, and was thereupon agreed that we would all make the effort to thank and assist them appropriately.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.30

Date of next meeting Tuesday, 20 February 2024, 10.00 a.m, at Pocklington Rugby Club