Moseley and Kings Heath District u3a Executive Committee

On line virtual meeting April 27, 2021

Chair: Ray Tier

Present: Sara Meyer, Ken Fisher, Alan Fair, Tessa Bidgood, Roy Stove, Anne James, Sarah

O’Brien, Jackie Spearpoint, Ann Walsh

Minutes: Jill Spearman

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Corrections and approval of previous minutes
3. Action points and matters arising
4. Compliance, including Health and Safety
5. AGM, including recommendations to members of nominees to the new committee
6. Sub-committee reports, including newsletter
7. Venues, transitioning out of lockdown
8. Feedback on Hall Green Community Meeting
9. Mirthy talk
10. Any other business
11. Date of next meeting.
12. Apologies: from Cormac Quigley and Anne Crerar.

2. Corrections and approval of previous minutes:

Item 7. JS noted that the sentence reading ‘KF will put a reminder in the next newsletter, to

members who have not yet renewed’ had not needed recording, as JS already does this.

There were no other corrections. The minutes were approved.

3. Action points and matters arising:

Item 11: RT reported that Frank Gresham is working on the problems reported by JS. It is

painstaking work, and will take longer than hoped. RT had sent committee members

an email reporting on FG’s progress and will continue to provide further updates. **RT**

Item 11, trustees liability: KF reported that as an unincorporated body, u3a trustees have

unlimited liability, but this is covered by u3a national’s insurance, up to £5 million. As an

unincorporated body, u3a is not able to buy property.

Item 9: SM said she would draft an article on the diversity workshop, for the newsletter. **SM**

4. Compliance, including Health and Safety:

There was nothing to report on this item.

5. Annual General Meeting

RT said that a way had been found for JS to stand again, so her name has been added to the

list of nominees. RT will provide further information. **RT**

KF has circulated the draft agenda, and asked that any comments or amendments should be

submitted to him immediately, as the hard copies will need to be posted to members not on

line on April 29. The Beacon version will go out 3 or 4 days later. The cost will be about £65.

AW has sent an update of her and RS’s report on interest groups.

KF now has everyone’s photo and pen portrait.

6. Sub-committee reports:

Interest Groups:

AW apologised for delay in circulating the report on IGs. She has met with AJ and SO’B,

who have produced a model risk assessment form, based on national u3a materials, for the

use of IGLs. She will circulate it, and send it to KF for the newsletter. Using the risk

assessment is the responsibility of IGLs, but this clear guidance should be useful to

them. **AW**

Membership: JS said that we now have 509 members (607 this time last year). 2 new

members have joined this month, and some lapsed members have rejoined. Only 63 have

not yet renewed. JS has processed 455 renewals. About ¾ have renewed via Beacon, the

remainder by cheque. There is still a proportion who struggle with Beacon, and with the

members portal, causing time consuming work for JS as she helps them. This should

improve with Beacon 2. JS said that the decision not to print membership cards had been

a valuable time-saver. She also said that the new committee would need to consider how

new members were welcomed: at present there are no monthly meetings or coffee mornings,

and the information sheet given to new members needs up-dating. **New committee**

Finance: TB said she had received notice from national u3a that money held by IGs is

the responsibility of the Executive Committee. The choir is the only group that holds its own

money, and they give TB the exact amount for rent each month. TB handles all AVCs and

pays all bills. TB considers that we have a fair grip on money.

RS said that he has a projector and an old laptop belonging to MKHD u3a, which should be

on the list TB keeps of equipment. **TB**

SM asked whether we have a write-down policy; TB said no, defunct items are just removed

from the list. RT said we should keep items as long as they have any possible use. SM

said that we need to make sure no personal data is left on any defunct items.

Newsletter: KF said that the deadline, as usual, is this Friday. He has room for any items

committee members wish to submit.

7. Venues:

SM will convene a small working group within a couple of weeks, to consider what venues

will be available, safe and suitable after lockdown ends, and to provide clear guidance to

IGLs. **SM**

8. Hall Green Community Meeting:

AF reported that the meeting of the Neighbourhood Network Scheme was an initiative of

Birmingham City Council, for older people. u3a had not been included until we drew

attention to ourselves. The meeting itself had not been of great interest for us, as it was

mainly about sources of funding, but for the future we are now linked to a scheme which

can enable us to develop a more heterogenous membership. SM said that while we   
 shouldn’t seek to expand to a point where we can’t cope, it is worth exploring how we can

attract a more diverse membership and co operate with others to avail ourselves of

community resources. AF will circulate a link to the NNS website. **AF**

9. Mirthy talk:

JS reported that the talk for next month will be called ‘Hey Diddle Diddle’, about the meaning

of nursery rhymes. She had not kept up with the numbers for last month’s talk, but the

talks are ticking over.

10. Any other business:

RS said how much he had enjoyed his time on the executive committee. He is sorry to be

leaving, but is available to the committee on a one-off basis.

SM gave her thanks to all the members who are standing down, welcomed new members

elect to the committee, and hoped that the new committee will go from strength to

strength building on the foundation of the good work of this committee.

JES (minute taker) asked for committee members’ email addresses, so that she can clarify

any items she is unsure about. **Agreed**

11. Date of next meeting: May 25, 2021, at 2:00 pm.