

Moseley Kings Heath and District U3A

Executive Committee Minutes

Friends Meeting House 28th January, 2020, 2:00 pm.

Chair : Sara Meyer

Present : Sara Meyer, Anne Crerar, Tessa Bidgood, Ken Fisher, Brenda Bingham, Sylvia Butler, Jackie Spearpoint, Julie Alder, Mike Clark

Apologies ; Roy Stove

Minutes : Diane Worland.

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AGENDA

1. Apologies (see above).
2. Corrections and approval of previous minutes.
3. Action points and matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda.
4. Review of last monthly meeting and planning for next monthly meetings.
5. Sub-committee reports.
6. Succession Planning.
7. Links with Birmingham University
8. AOB

Date of next meeting: February 25th, 2020 at 2:00 pm, Friends Meeting House.

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2. Corrections to minutes of November 2019

Item 9c: Frank Gresham's name was misspelt.
There were no other corrections.

Minutes approved, signed SM

3. Matters arising

Item 3: TB reported that the bank account signatories had been changed, and only one person (TB) can sign into the bank account online. In the event of that not being possible, the other signatories (SM, AC, KF) can go into the bank in person to get access.

Account to stay at HSBC for the time being.

4. Review of monthly meetings:

December (Christmas event): The church was cold, the seats uncomfortable, and the event too long. Public transport constraints being kept in mind, alternative venues such as Cambridge Rd Methodist were considered for future events. **Carried forward.**

January meeting: The talk was interesting, but there was a lot of feedback sound initially. Also, people at the sides were not able to see the slides. It was suggested that a rotation of the seats by 90 degrees may help, but this was not approved. **Robin Centre to be approached again (SB?) to see if they could reduce the noise from their activities. Frank Gresham to be asked (MC?) to purchase a new speaker microphone.**

Future Meetings: Ideas for making the monthly meetings more interactive were considered, including workshop format, mixing up formats, tea and biscuits.
Members to bring back ideas to the March EC

Next meeting:

Membership table: TB

First out: KF

Last out: TB

Meeting and greeting: SB & JA.

Decision taken not to re-introduce signing in for members at the present time.

5. Sub-committee reports:

- a) Social: JA reported that full details will be available in the newsletter. Volunteers are still being sought for help with the quiz.
- b) Interest groups: BB – i) New group on Creative Writing starting on March 4th at Colmore Rd Meeting House– led by Jennifer Cousins. It is liaising with existing group. **To be publicised in newsletter.**
ii) 25 group leaders have indicated their intention to attend the Group Leaders meeting on 12th February.
iii) It was confirmed that all coaches booked by groups must be wheelchair-accessible in line with current legislation.
iv) One of the French groups has a venue problem as one of its members has become more disabled. A request has been made for a more expensive meeting place. **It was agreed that the meeting be subsidised on a monthly basis (it meets every two weeks) and will be kept under review**
- c) Finance: TB circulated accounts of current financial status. It was noted that there were still deficits for some groups, in that AVCs did not cover room rentals. After some discussion, it was agreed that **recommendation for AVCs should remain at £1.50, but that a reminder about this should be issued in the newsletter.**

TB reported that she had not actioned Gift Aid. It is very complicated, and a new Beacon system may make changes necessary. This will be looked at again later in the year.

Current bank balance is £5278. Bearing in mind expenses due in the next financial year, TB recommended that the yearly subscription be raised to £15. **It was agreed that TB will consult with other members of the Finance Committee before the membership is informed of the increase.**

- d) Membership: JS reported that we now have 612 members; 16 joined in January. She will attend monthly meetings in March, April and May to collect membership fees. **TB and BB volunteered to help at renewals.**

e) Newsletter: KF thanked members for the information submitted, and reminded them that the deadline for the February issue was the following Friday. DW will submit information about the Bowling Group to resume in March. **KF will remind readers about the need for volunteers for the committee.**

6. Succession planning:

SM had identified 2/3 possible new committee members who will be invited to March/April meetings as observers. Committee could go down to 9 members if necessary.

MC undertook to bring to February meeting a checklist for succession planning and AGM preparation.

7. Links with Birmingham University:

MC raised for discussion whether the link with Birmingham University, which he had been leading on, should be pursued. He felt that the benefit to our members which we originally hoped for had not materialised. Most University activities come through the departments and it is through our groups contacting departments that our most fruitful links have come. Future benefits might come through the University's 'Birmingham in Action' campaign, but it has proven difficult to reach our University contact over this.

After discussion the committee agreed not to pursue the link and to encourage our groups to make their own links at departmental level.

8. Any other business:

- i) National U3A day – 3rd June. Brief discussion. Carried forward to March agenda.
- ii) SB raised information she had received from another U3A about a Health and Well-being event. Members thought the topic would be of great interest to our membership. **SB to explore further – could it be an activity group, workshop, or other format?**
- iii) JS queried whether the speaker on cyber-security from the police could be invited back. **SB to explore.**
- iv) KF reminded that newsletter deadline is on 31st. Group of the month not yet identified. Chairs asked to submit short introductory letter. **KF/SM/AC.**

9. Date of next meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2020, at 2:00 pm, Friends Meeting House.
Refreshments: Brenda Bingham Apologies from SM, TB, SB

