

Moseley, Kings Heath & District U3A  
Executive Committee

On-line virtual meeting June 30, 2020

Chair: Sara Meyer

Present: Mike Clark, Alan Fair, Sylvia Butler, Jackie Spearpoint, Tessa Bidgood, Brenda Bingham, Ann Walsh, Liz Cregan, Anne Crerar, Julie Alder, Ken Fisher, Roy Stove.

Minutes: Jill Spearman.

1. Apologies: none.
2. Corrections and approval of previous minutes: no corrections. The minutes were approved, and signed by SM.
3. Action points and matters arising, not covered elsewhere on the agenda: none.
4. Subcommittee reports:
  - a) **Finance:** TB has submitted accounts for last year. She has been in contact with the auditor, who is content to inspect the accounts when movement is possible again. There have been no bills for venues, as Interest Group Leaders have cancelled in time. Very little money has been spent.
  - b) **Interest Groups:** Most IGLs have now renewed their memberships, 2 are outstanding and one of these has a cheque in the post. AW, AF, RS & BB had met on Zoom to discuss interest groups and leaders. RS reported that there had been 2 or 3 more responses to the survey (exec committee meeting 26.06.2020, item 4b), but that they do not change the overall conclusions.
  - c) **Membership:** JS reported that there are 508 current members; 98 have not renewed. Very little change from the position last year. A small trickle of renewals is coming in. Lapsed members who are not on line will be discussed under Item 8, Buddy System. **Agreed** no further reminders to lapsed members.
  - d) **Social Activities:** JA reported that Carey Baff has now recovered, and has been in touch about her concern that members of the lunch group will be feeling lonely in the absence of regular lunches. She proposes having coffee or lunchtime Zoom meetings in groups of 8. General discussion -

concluded that JA ask CB to find out how many of lunch group members would want this, and encourage them to create small self help Zoom groups. SM suggested an item in the newsletter to encourage this. AF suggested a reminder in the newsletter that on-line tutorials are available with technical help. JS raised her suggestion of virtual coffee mornings (exec committee meeting 26.05.2020, item 3/6), using breakout groups. General discussion concluded that we would encourage members to set up self help meetings. General discussion of aims of U3A - educational or social? MC said that the proposed new constitution included both. SM proposed that AF, JA, RS & BB should work to provide something for members to download to help in setting up their own Zoom meetings. LC offered to help with technical input. **Agreed.**

**AF,JA,RS,BB,LC,AW.**

5. AGM update: MC reported that stages 1 & 2 of the process were complete; he has had 4 responses to stage 1, and 5 responses and 1 question at stage 2. The responses were all positive, and the question was about returning to physical activities and meetings. MC is now about to start the voting stage of the AGM process. General discussion of MC's proposals, and whether our constitution should be the place to include our wish for greater diversity and inclusivity.

AGREED to continue with MC's proposals; and AGREED, when looking at the new constitution which will be brought in next year, to ensure that it reflects the need for diversity and inclusivity. **MC**

JA asked whether the role of social secretary was now to be shared across the group of Interest Group co ordinators. She felt that members need to have a named person to refer to. General discussion; AGREED that as there are currently no social activities planned, to leave the wording fluid, to allow the new committee members to gain some experience of the work before assigning named roles. LC to work with TB with a view to taking on the role of treasurer.

6. Newsletter: KF said that the newsletter was going well. Mailed copies had gone out in colour this time; AGREED to continue to pay for printing in colour for members who are not on line. KF now has most of the pen portraits, 2 are still missing, and photos of the new committee members are needed. Deadline is Friday, July 3. JS suggested feedback from members who have recovered from Covid19, MC asked for encouragement to vote. JA observed that the group (JA, AF, RS, BB) preparing something to help self help groups to set up would not have time to meet before the deadline. AGREED that their work would go in a future edition of the newsletter. SM thanked MC and KF for their excellent work on very challenging jobs.

7. Physical venues: because of the age group of U3A members, and the likelihood of underlying vulnerabilities, it is unlikely that we will be meeting physically in the foreseeable future. AGREED to send a letter from the committee to all venues. SM & AC to draft a letter, TB to provide a list of addresses. SM suggested having on-line speakers, monthly or occasionally. To take forward at next meeting.

**SM, AC, TB**

8. Buddy system: SM said there had been lots of feedback. Members very appreciative of newsletter and phone calls. Not all those called wanted continuing contact, but many do. It was felt to have been a useful exercise. AGREED to continue contact where appropriate, including those members who had not yet renewed. **All**

9. Any other business:

a) RS referred to AF's point about diversity - there will be a U3A day next year, which will be a good opportunity to do something to raise the profile of diversity and inclusivity. AGREED to begin working towards that.

b) MC said that the emails asking people to vote will be going out after the newsletter - can existing Zoom interest groups be used to encourage voting?

c) 9c JS raised the matter of the 'Members' button on our website, which is password protected and connects to a page containing our AGM and EC Minutes. During the discussion that followed the focus turned to the storage of our Newsletters on the website; this page is not password protected. No decisions were reached although, since no-one expressed a need for the Members page to be password protected (as it contains no contact details), JS subsequently sought agreement by email to change the heading and remove protection. No objections being received, Frank was asked to effect those changes and has done so. **RS** offered to make an audit of the website.

d)KF suggested that members not online could use the buddy system to vote by proxy. MC will send out the letters, is happy for buddies to help with voting if wanted.

e)AC flagged up some gaps in our set of policies, including complaints procedure and equal opportunities (which may address some of our concerns regarding equal opps omission in the constitution). We will look at these later in the year. AC will contact members with further information. **AC**

SM thanked committee members for their patience and commitment.

10. Date of next meeting: **July 28, 2020 at 2:00 pm**

