

Moseley, Kings Heath & District U3A

Executive Committee Minutes

On-line virtual meeting, 28 April 2020

Chair: Sara Meyer

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

Observing: Alan Fair, Ann Walsh, Liz Cregan

Minutes: Jill Spearman

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1. Introduction of nominee committee members observing the meeting: Liz Cregan, Ann Walsh and Alan Fair have been nominated to the Executive Committee, but because it has not been possible to hold an AGM they have not been elected. Further discussion under item 6).

2. Corrections and approval of previous minutes:
The heading should be 'Moseley, Kings Heath and District U3A'
5b: delete 'can renew'.
The minutes were approved and signed by SM.

3. Action points and matters arising:

6b. JS raised the proposed 'buddy' system - to be discussed under item 6 on this agenda.

6d. JS asked if there had been any follow up to her suggestion about a newsletter item about using the internet. SM is thinking of a feature on that, including a link to an instruction manual. To carry forward.

4. Sub committee reports:

a) Finance: TB had distributed in advance the Statement of Accounts, a copy of a bank statement, and a document on Interest Group finances. She pointed out that membership income reflects income from the last financial year only. Interest Group contributions have gone up as expected. Expenses: printing costs have gone down, as TB has done some printing herself

(e.g. membership cards), while other costs (bank charges, Beacon fee, PayPal) have gone up. AVCs from Interest Groups have increased and reduced the amount going out in subsidies. MC observed that there had been concern in recent years that some Interest Groups had run a larger deficit than others, and this is now reducing. One group was receiving a large subsidy compared to others. There was recognition that the nature of some groups' activities necessitates that they require a higher level of subsidy than others. Action: to continue to monitor while keeping open the possibility of future action if necessary. **AGREED**

TB said it had not been possible to get the accounts inspected. This will be arranged when it becomes possible. **TB**

It was agreed that the end of year balance was at the level we hoped it would be, confirming that the previous year's decision on fees was correct. TB was thanked for all her hard work on the accounts.

b) Membership: JS reported that we have 607 members; 132 have still to renew, but have not yet lapsed. This is roughly similar to last year's figures.

The workload has been greater this year as renewal in person has not been possible. Some people still have difficulty with the members' portal, but it is to be simplified so one can hope that will improve. A number still find PayPal frustrating. Two members who had been very unhappy this year have renewed.

SM commented that the work of the Membership Secretary was challenging at this time of year, and thanked JS for her splendid work.

SM suggested another reminder about renewals in the newsletter **KF**, and a reminder to Interest Group leaders **BB, RS**.

c) Interest Groups: BB reported that there have not been any conventional meetings, but groups were finding ways of carrying on using Zoom, email, etc. General discussion of ways in which groups are currently functioning. JS asked whether the cost of Zoom subscriptions could be covered for Interest Groups. TB said she would assume group members would contribute to such a cost. Given the difficulties of gathering AVCs at present it was agreed that the best way forward was for interest groups to use the free Zoom service and set up 2 consecutive 40 minute meetings to circumvent the time restrictions.

d) Social: JA reported that there have been no social activities. There are some things planned for spring, but it is not likely these will go ahead. BB reported that she had been in touch with Carey Baff, who is still in hospital, but out of intensive care and improving. Carey's large contribution to our U3A

since the beginning was noted. MC suggested sending a message from the committee and flowers AGREED

5. Co opting new committee members:

SM said that normally nominees would be voted on by the membership at a quorate AGM. It is proposed that the Executive Committee members who would normally be stepping down should continue, to provide continuity, and that the nominees should be co opted onto the committee, to work alongside current members, learn the ropes, and gain experience. They would be full members, able to join in discussion and vote.

AGREED

The committee expressed its gratitude to the nominees for their willingness to help.

6. Preparing for long haul lockdown, including keeping in contact with members:

SM said that it is clear the lockdown will continue for a long time, and it is important to keep momentum and to maintain contact with members.

Newsletter: The interim newsletter has been well received. KF said he had had lots of appreciative feedback. He needs material - committee members are asked to contribute thoughts about content and items. **All**

SM thanked KF for a sterling job.

'Buddy' system: SM said that we have about 30 members who are not online. She proposes that committee members should 'adopt' a small number of such members each and keep in regular contact with them by telephone. General discussion. SM asked committee members to email her or AC, they will divide up those members needing contact among the interested committee members. AGREED

SM suggested a virtual coffee morning. TB to take forward. **TB**

7. Any other business: JS said that large numbers of emails circulate around the committee. She asked colleagues to make sure that the subject line in circulated emails was appropriate so that relevant emails could be located more readily.

SM thanked the observers for their patience, she was happy they'd attended the meeting and gained some idea of the work of the committee. She thanked the committee for their hard work, and hoped everyone would keep well and safe.

8. Next meeting: May 26, 2020 at 2:00 pm