

Moseley and Kings Heath District u3a Executive Committee On line
virtual meeting March 30, 2021

Chair: Anne Crerar

Present: Ray Tier, Ann Walsh, Sarah O'Brien, Ken Fisher, Roy Stove, Alan Fair, Tessa Bidgood,, Jackie Spearpoint, Anne James, Cormac Quigley

Minutes: Jill Spearman Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Corrections and approval of previous minutes
3. Action points and matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda
4. Compliance, including health and safety matters
5. AGM (KF)
6. Annual accounts (TB)
7. Subcommittee reports which now include newsletter
8. Follow up from Transitioning out of Lockdown Workshop
9. Diversity workshop
10. Mirthy talk
11. Any other business

12. Date of next meeting.

1. Apologies:

Sara Meyer. Discussion of whether to tell membership about SM's illness. Agreed brief item in newsletter, saying that she is unable to carry out her duties temporarily. **KF**

2. Corrections and approval of previous minutes:

11. KF noted that those intending to stand for the executive committee at the AGM should notify the Secretary, at least one month before the AGM, with a named proposer and seconder.

2. TB noted that the vote to adopt the new model constitution was 6 in favour, 5 against.

6. TB noted that in the finance subcommittee reports she had said that the accounts would

not be audited in time for the AGM, but would be available for inspection.

RS said that he is no longer leading Art Appreciation Group 4 (4 omitted) and that Joan (not John) Taylor had taken over.

11. JS asked whether there had been progress on the secure certificate for the website; AC deferred this discussion to AOB.

3. Action points and matters arising: There were none.

4. Compliance:

KF has begun gathering material for his compliance review of MKHD's policies, but has not had time to make much progress. Deferred to an agenda for the new committee.

5. Annual General Meeting:

KF said that a small group had met to agree the way forward. The agenda has been agreed, and will go out to the membership by post and email. Members without internet access will receive a hard copy with a printed voting form, those with email will have a link to

vote via Beacon. All votes will be processed by Abacus (names and addresses will not be included). Results will be published in the June newsletter.

6. Annual Accounts

TB said the accounts had been sent to executive committee members. There had been some reaction, because of an error, but the correct version had now been

circulated. The committee now has to agree the report and statement of accounts. TB

has contacted Helena Mandelberg, who has agreed to audit the accounts. KF asked about the amount of bank charges. TB explained that this item looks excessive, because she includes Beacon and PayPal charges with bank charges. TB agreed to change the headings to make this clearer. **TB**

The accounts and statement were agreed.

KF said the Charity Commission had contacted him as Secretary, asking him to submit

the accounts. AC clarified that as our turn over is less than £25,000 MKHD does not have to submit accounts, but does have to submit a return, for which the deadline is January 2022.

7. Subcommittee reports: Membership:

JS said that the renewal process was going well. Of 522 members, 356 have now renewed, with 156 outstanding. About a quarter have paid by cheque because they had difficulty with the on line process and the PayPal system. This has been time consuming for JS, who hopes that when the new version appears on Beacon, the members portal will be simplified.

KF will put a reminder in the next newsletter, to members who have not yet renewed. **KF**

Interest Group Coordinators:

AW said that three walking group leaders had requested authorization to resume activities.

All three have been authorized, having provided risk assessments and complied with government Covid advice. They had used the risk assessment provided by the Ramblers Association, which has been accepted by national U3A.

RS's report on meeting with Interest Group Leaders has been circulated. About half of IGLs had responded. The meetings have

generated a lot of useful information about what IGs are doing. Only a very small proportion of IGLs have ever accessed Beacon, so information on Beacon about IGs is well out of date. The new committee will need to find a way to get IGLs to use Beacon. KF said that all IGs need to be authorized by the committee, and to have a risk assessment. AW and RS are potentially vulnerable if groups have not met this requirement. Discussion of 'informal' U3A activity, the perceived gap between the committee structure and IGLs. AW and RS will draft something for the newsletter to inform IGLs what is needed. **AW, RS** JS raised the issue of MKHD funding a group Zoom subscription. TB and RS said that the committee has discussed this twice and decided not to fund this. To go forward to a summer agenda.

Newsletter:

KF said the deadline as usual was Friday for contributions.

8. Transitioning out of lockdown workshop:

This had been a useful exercise, and important also for the long term development of the U3A. Notes of the workshop are with KF. He would like to publish the notes, along with the results of the survey, on Beacon. Agreed. **KF**

9. Diversity Workshop:

AF said the workshop had been very successful - a meeting with other community agencies, Very positive, and not a one way street. Clear that MKHD does not reflect cultural diversity. CQ is interested in helping to take this forward. KF said that SM had been going to write something for the newsletter. It is now likely that article will be postponed.

Agreed to keep diversity on the agenda.

10. Mirthy talks:

JS reported that last months talk (Poisons for Medicines) had attracted a lot of favorable comment, was well appreciated and had been mentioned in the survey. It is not yet clear how many members are taking up the option to listen to the Kings Norton talks. The next talk will be on Tales of the British Raj.

11. Any other business:

JS reported continuing problems with emails, including nuisance

emails. She had reported them to Frank Gresham. After discussion, it was agreed that RT, KF & FG would meet to try to resolve this. **RT**, **KF** CQ asked if the committee would send flowers to SM, agreed to send a card to the hospital from the committee, and flowers when she returns home. **AC** KF raised the issue of trustees' liability. He will do some research on this. **KF** JS said that the survey had shown that the All Saints meeting room was in some ways unsatisfactory. Agreed that this was a good time to look for another venue; no decision about next steps.

12. Date of next meeting: April 27, 2021 at 2:00 pm.