

Moseley, Kings Heath and District U3A Executive Committee Minutes

On line virtual meeting November 24, 2020

Chair: Sara Meyer

Present: Jackie Spearpoint, Ken Fisher, Anne Crerar, Tessa Bidgood, Roy Stove, Alan Fair, Ann Walsh, Mike Clark (present for item 4 on the agenda).

Minutes: Jill Spearman

1. Apologies: there were none.

2. Corrections to minutes of October 27th:

Heading should read 'Moseley, Kings Heath and District U3A'.

Item 9, 2nd paragraph should read 'complying with them could be onerous, and, if not complied with, the Committee'

No other corrections.

3. Action points and matters arising, not covered elsewhere on the agenda:

TB has delivered all diaries ordered except 2: people who had ordered not responding to her emails. She asked JS for their telephone numbers.

TB referred to subscriptions for next year: she is planning to hold a Finance Subcommittee meeting in January. National fees have gone up from £3.50 to £4.00.

TB referred to the equal opportunities policy document review: she and AF have agreed to work together to consider diversity issues. AF has looked at membership statistics on the national website: U3A is 98% white. There is a new National subcommittee for that purpose due to report in January, and TB suggests we wait for that report.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed by SM.

4. **Constitutional amendment update (MC):**

MC explained that the statement of purpose in the original national constitution had been quite narrowly focused on educational activities, leaving more practical activity based interest group potentially not covered by u3a insurance. An amendment has been recommended by the national u3a, and this has been voted on, and agreed, at our virtual AGM in July 2020.

However, although we had understood that we had permission from the Charities Commission to make the amendment, we have now been informed by the Commission that we need to seek membership approval a second time.

MC proposed the amendment be put to the membership via an online AGM. 3 weeks notice is required, and a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority of those voting is needed.

Agreed.

MC to send KF an item for the next newsletter. **MC/KF**

There was discussion about whether to adhere to the Committee's original plan to adopt the national u3a 2018 Model Constitution at next summer's AGM. TB proposed that we do.

Agreed.

5. **Sub-committee reports:**

Finance: TB had nothing to add since the last meeting. There will be a finance subcommittee meeting in January.

Membership: JS reported 2 new members, 1 resignation (the person has moved to another area) and 3 late renewals. Relevant interest group leaders have been informed. We now have 522 members.

Interest Groups: RS and AW had circulated a report. They have started an update of the review of interest group activities. There has been a steady growth of groups using Zoom. RS & AW are proposing to email all IG leaders on Beacon, and follow up with phone calls. There has

usually been an IG leaders' lunch in January, but that is not possible this year; it is hoped that some kind of online event can be organized.

Discussion of new ideas for activity groups covered:

- asking members for suggestions, in the newsletter, for 'groups you'd love to have' (SM said this was in the draft chairs' message for the next newsletter);
- asking IG leaders for features in newsletter on their group's activities;
- a workshop on ways to expand our group (SM);
- a new feature on Amazon Prime which allows a group to watch something at the same time and then to discuss it together (SM pointed out that other providers may have similar features).

6. **Mirthy talks:**

JS has circulated a report on last month's talk - 70 people watched, feedback has been very positive. We now need to choose subjects for December and January - JS to choose, but to avoid a Christmas-themed talk for December. SM suggested the newsletter should feature the Mirthy talks, encourage people to discuss the talks in their IGs.

JS,KF

7. **Succession planning:**

SM reported that she has been in touch with 2 potential new committee members, Ray Tier and Anne James. She proposes that they should join the committee as members without portfolio in January 2021, pending election to the committee at the next AGM. **Agreed**

SM asked committee members to think if anyone they know in u3a would be suitable and willing to join the committee or take on non-committee roles. Committee members were also asked to let the Chairs know their intentions – whether continuing on committee, interest in particular roles, etc.

ALL

AF suggested that MKHD U3A could have a president or head of state without formal responsibilities - someone like Benjamin Zephaniah.

8. **Newsletter:**

TB still has diaries available.

KF proposed that the list of committee members published in the newsletter should be altered to give generic email addresses (e.g. Membership Secretary) instead of members' personal email addresses.

Agreed

There will not be an executive committee meeting in December, so KF asked that any contributions for the January newsletter should be sent to him for the usual deadline. He has enough material for the December newsletter, but can still accept contributions reaching him by this Friday's deadline. **ALL**

9. **Safeguarding:**

AC said that u3as are required by the Charities Commission to have a policy on safeguarding. She has been looking at the policies of other u3as to see whether we might adopt some of their ideas. The Third Age Trust are also reviewing their own guidelines. After some discussion SM proposed an ongoing 'umbrella' agenda item on compliance which could include Health and Safety, Diversity, Safeguarding. To be continued at the next meeting.

Agreed

10. **Any other business:**

AF said that he is one of the judges of the u3a poetry competition, could this be an item in the newsletter?

AF/KF

RS informed Committee members that he is now a trustee of Bourneville Park.

JS suggested she circulate committee members telephone numbers within the Executive

Committee.

JS

SM asked committee members to consider the frequency of Executive Committee meetings: we now meet at least 10 times per year, with a 10 item agenda. We could meet bi-monthly or quarterly and replace some meetings with workshops on particular projects or issues.

**For consideration at the January
.meeting**

11. Date of next meeting:

Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 2:00 pm. SM will invite Ray Tier and Ann James to attend as members without portfolio.

SM