

Moseley, Kings Heath and District U3A Executive Committee Minutes

On line virtual meeting January 26, 2021

Chair: Sara Meyer

Present: Anne Crerar, Jackie Spearpoint, Roy Stove, Ken Fisher, Ann Walsh, Tessa Bidgood (until 3:30), Alan Fair. Anne James and Ray Tier were present as co opted members.

Minutes: Jill Spearman.

1. Apologies: there were none. SM welcomed Ray Tier and Anne James who have been co-opted onto the committee with immediate effect.

2. Corrections to Minutes of November 24, 2020:

Item 5, paragraph 3, sentence 5 should read ' RS and AW are proposing to email all IG leaders on Beacon and follow up with phone calls.'

No other corrections. The minutes were approved and signed by SM.

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

Item 4, constitutional amendment up-date: SM reported on behalf of Mike Clark, that the amendment had been put to the membership via an on-line AGM, and it had been supported by 268 votes to 2. MC had written to the Charities Commission, and their reply was received yesterday: in these 'exceptional circumstances' they will accept the amendment to our Constitution subject to receiving confirmation that the committee agreed an online AGM and the date the vote took place .

Item 4, KF said that MC had not sent him an item for the newsletter, so one had not been included.

4. Succession planning:

SM summarised nominations subject to AGM vote:

AC and SM are intending to stand down as co -chairs at the next AGM. AC intends to stand down from the committee. JS' term of office as membership secretary comes to an end then.

SM was pleased to announce that Ray Tier has agreed to stand for the role of chair. The committee now needs one or two vice chairs. Other required officer roles are the Secretary and the Treasurer.

TB will stand as Treasurer for her last year (of the 6 permitted by the constitution). RS and AW stand as Interest Group Coordinators, and KF stand as Secretary and Communications Officer. AJ will stand as Membership Secretary and will share this role with another candidate whose name will be confirmed as soon as possible. We have no monthly meetings coordinator, but while we are unable to hold monthly meetings this is not urgent. The committee does need to consider how to go forward with monthly meetings for the membership in future.

AF has the role of Social Secretary. Although there have been no social events this year, we need to consider how to develop social events as we open up after the pandemic, perhaps in late summer or early autumn. Julie Alder has agreed to support AF in a non-committee role.

JS noted that AF's role is still referred to in the newsletter as Interest Group Co ordinator. KF will amend. SM thanked every one for their hard work and excellent contributions in their various roles.

5. Subcommittee reports: Compliance:

AC gave a brief update on Safeguarding. The Charities Commission requires us to have a safeguarding policy. AC has been unable to find any national guidance on this subject. The policies of other u3as vary very

widely, and some have misunderstood the meaning of safeguarding. KF had been looking into this and offered to help AC with it. AC intends to contact national office for guidance. The other compliance issue is that some of our policies are overdue for their three-yearly review, and this needs to go on our agenda soon. **Agreed AC/KF**

SM proposed that Compliance should be a regular agenda item, with Health and Safety included under the 'Compliance' umbrella. **Agreed**

Finance:

TB had circulated this year's and last year's accounts, along with a summary of the Finance Subcommittee's discussion on whether, given our healthy financial position, we should reduce the membership fee for 2021/22. After discussion and a vote TB's proposal to reduce the membership fee to £10 for the coming year was carried.

Membership:

JS reported that membership now stands at 521, with two new members since last month. She expects renewals to follow the same pattern as last year, with nearly all renewing online. Members can now print their own membership cards, but those who wish to can send JS an s.a.e. to do this for them.

Membership has fallen from 627 in January 2019. JS welcomes new members with the list of interest groups, and other information.

Interest Group Coordinators:

RS and AW had circulated a report on their work with Interest Group Leaders since the last Executive Committee meeting. They are organising online meetings with IGLs in lieu of the meeting that would normally happen

in January. The agenda is still to be finalised, and will include vacancies in IGs, developing confidence using Zoom, etc. **RS, AW**

6. Newsletter:

KF will send out a diagram of the procedure for publishing the newsletter for the new members. He does not yet have very much for the next newsletter, so there is space for contributions from exec committee members. **All**

KF is planning a piece about Moseley Farmer's Market. SM suggested an item encouraging members' suggestions for new Interest Groups eg wine appreciation. **KF**

7. Monthly meetings:

JS reported that the monthly Mirthy talks which have replaced members' meetings have been well received. The January talk on Murder, Sex and Mayhem in English Churches had 130 in the audience and got lots of good feedback. She is now sending out reminders for the February talk (The American West). She is happy to continue choosing subjects. **JS**

8. Frequency of executive committee meetings:

The executive committee currently meets 10 times per year (no meeting in August or December). SM had received no feedback on her suggestion of alternating business meetings with workshops on special subjects, such as diversity, forward planning for the next generation of members, expanding the range of interest groups. There was a wide discussion: committee members liked the idea of workshops on special subjects, but there was concern that this might not leave enough time for the business of the committee.

SM proposed that the committee should have one workshop before making a decision, and that this workshop should be run by a facilitator, whom SM had approached and who may willing to do so. **Agreed.**

SM also suggested running focus groups from a range of members, to discover what they think of the current offering, and to elicit their ideas for the future. This will be considered further.

9. Nuisance emails:

These have been raised as a concern by two or three committee members. Frank Gresham has amended Beacon so that only generic email addresses are publicly available, and emails are then redirected to individual committee members. KF will put an item in the newsletter asking members always to put U3A in the subject line of emails. **KF**

KF also suggested changing the generic addresses slightly; RS to liaise with KF. **RS, KF**

10. Any other business:

JS asked if, since we are likely still to be operating online for some months after the AGM, the committee would want her to continue organising monthly Mirthy talks? Decision deferred awaiting further feedback.

SM asked committee members to think about how we might recognise U3A day on June 2, since we are unlikely to be able to organise face to face activities. **All**

11. Date of next virtual meeting:

Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 2:00, on Zoom.