

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK U3A

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19th May 2009 in HQ

Chairman: Ted Morrell

Present: Sandra Webster, Beth Blamires, Chris Jones, Stan Bryan, Bill Evans, Ann Haskell, Dorothy Harrison, Edna Lally, Alex McMinn, Carole Gray, Norman Williamson, Bernie Handford, Jeff Roberts, Norman Williamson, Sue Watkinson + David Blanchflower

Apologies: Pat McKenzie and Willem Wiechers

Welcome – Chairman welcome everyone to the meeting and introduced new members. He expressed wish that we might all work together consensually and comfortably to help continue the momentum and quality of our U3A.

He noted that the maximum term on the Executive was six years, according to the Constitution. Also that he would end his term at 31 December 2009 when Jeff will take over. Sue ceases to be Secretary at the AGM 2010. The search for the next Secretary is an important task.

1. Election of Officers –

- (a) Appointed:- Chairman – Ted Morrell, Vice Chairman – Jeff Roberts, Hon. Secretary – Sue Watkinson, Hon. Treasurer - Chris Jones, Membership Secretary – Pat McKenzie, Newsletter Editors – Bill Evans and Sue Watkinson. It was proposed to look at the Constitution as to whether Officers should be appointed at AGM if Model Constitution is delayed.
- (b) Trustees are confirmed as Alex McMinn (Chairman), Andrew Beeston, Bill Hale, Ted Morrell, Jeff Roberts, Norman Platt (Secretary). Pat Roberts, Geoff Roberts, Peter Sewell, Paul Thompson and Ray Sim.
- (c) Sandra Webster and William Wiechers were co-opted members for one year.

2. Review of AGM 2009 – Minutes to include Barbara Bonner's name in Treasurer's Report beside "Bookstall". The venue for the AGM worked well with about 140 people attending.

Mrs Heslegrave's proposal re U3A support for proposed Urgent Care Centre – Discussion as to whether it is appropriate to raise these matters at U3A meetings. It was the consensus at AGM that we were not a forum for either petitions or matters political.

3. Minutes of Meeting March 2009 – Second instalment of Grant received was £2,200 and not £1,850.

4. Matters Arising from 17th March Minutes

- (a) Work on Christ Church Old School – Demolition to start 22nd June, main contractor not yet confirmed. It was reported that building work was to be completed by December. Permission agreed to park at Aughton Institute. Secretary has negotiated a group discount for the use of the two halls and kitchen at Aughton Village Hall.
- (b) The U3A North West Region has been formed and all U3As in NW are now members of it. Alex McMinn is The NW Zone Trustee.(Until August 2010) It is proposed to have a "sub region" of West Lancs & Sefton. Ashton-in-Makerfield, which has close links with Upholland, may also join. Ted & Jeff will host the first meeting. Anyone else wishing to become involved to speak to Jeff quickly.

5. Committees' Roles

- (a) Group Support – Jeff Roberts to discuss what they feel their role is especially with regard to calling it Group Support and Learning and dealing with the White Paper – The Learning Revolution- and the Time to Learn brochure and to report back.
- (b) Social – Proposed Name Social Committee and Membership Support. Norman Williamson prefers it is kept as two separate committees as Social is not able to take on extra work.
Membership Support – Dorothy Harrison prefers it to be called "Help Each Other" Group.
- (c) Publicity – Newsletter and distribution; outside events and general publicity and website.
- (d) Finance – After much discussion it was suggested that Finance Committee be renamed Resources and that initially they should look at finance, funding, grants, equipment, premises etc. An exploratory meeting to be held with Bernie Handford, Beth Blamires, David Blanchflower, Sandra Webster, Pat McKenzie and Chris Jones to discuss and report back to Executive.

Ted counselled that it would be wise if not all Executive Members joined committees straight away because we need to get to grips with Time to Learn and the White Paper. Beth Blamires suggested September meeting to draw all the ends together.

Proposed Jeff Roberts as Group Support Chairman, Norman Williamson as Social Chairman and Stan Bryan as Publicity Chairman.

7. Trustees Report – The Trustees will look at the new Constitution when it is published.

8. Membership Report – ^{Since} By 19th February 73 new members; 12 people are not renewing; 1354 have now paid and 452 remain unpaid; a total of 1806 paid and potential members. 2455 is next number to be issued. For those who have not paid, membership lapses after 30th June. Too late to send reminders with Newsletter but arrangements will be made next year. Suggested reducing “period of grace” to two months.

9. Treasurers Report - £20,310 received in subs; £2,200 grant came in on 1st April; Restricted Funds just over £10,000; Groups £8,600 (Groups will be charged for rental towards end of year); £8,037 main balance.

10. Committee Reports

(a) Finance – See Minutes

(b) Groups Support – see Minutes

(c) Publicity – Everything in hand for Newsletter which includes an insert for Help Direct

(d) Social – The new programme to be in magazine. Would like some good support for the socials and Drama Group. Choir has organised an event on the 25th September.

11. Special Projects

1. Alex McMinn reported on Time to Learn and White Paper. Asked everyone to spend time to assimilate information. Needs discussion otherwise funding will be lost to U3A.

2. Local Issues – Grant received from Lancashire County Council for £2,500 to develop the TV Link with the housebound but despite adverts only a handful of people are using this facility. This grant may have to be refunded even if, after advertising outside the U3A in Rest Homes for example, not enough people are interested. He has also applied for an £11,000 grant for next and the year after but this application might have to be withdrawn.

Brookside Development, Aughton Street - 111 Apartments. Contracts for this development are going out at the end of June – end of September. This development includes a Bistro, IT room and rooms for meetings. There will also be a manned office designated for the U3A. Suggested we appoint someone to go and look at this.

3. Helping Children to read. This idea came from the grassroots. Lancashire County Council Education Department will run a course for members who want to understand how children learn and then have an opportunity to go into schools as mentors. Action needed with a view to get volunteers to start September.

4. 20th May 2009 West Lancashire District Council changes its name to West Lancashire Borough Council.

12. Secretary's matters

a) Third Age Trust – 250 2010 diaries to be ordered.

b) Third Age Trust AGM 4th September in Edinburgh. Travel, Hotel expenses and conference fee for up to 4 delegates are approved. Jeff and Ann Roberts have expressed an interest.

c) U3A News now available on CD free of charge and on website as a soundfile.

d) A speaker from the Woodland Trust is available.

e) Suggestion that Executive meetings be reduced to every 2 months but suggest we continue to meet monthly (but omit August) pro tem.

NOTES

1. The Executive meets on the third Tuesday in the month at 0930 in the Scout & Guide HQ. The remaining dates for 2009 are as follows:

16th June, 21st July, break in August, 15th September, 20th October, 17th November and 22nd December.

2. A meeting of the South West Lancashire and North Sefton U3As has been arranged for Thursday 4th June. Ted and Jeff will represent A&O U3A