

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK U3A

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday 16th June 2009

Chairman: Ted Morrell

Present: Sue Watkinson, Beth Blamires, Chris Jones, Jeff Roberts, Norman Williamson, Bernie Handford, Bill Evans, Alex McMinn, Stan Bryan, Ann Haskell, Edna Lally, Dorothy Harrison, Willem Wiechers, Pat McKenzie & David Blanchflower

Apologies: Carole Gray & Sandra Webster

Chairman welcomed Willem Wiechers to his first meeting.

1. Minutes of meeting held 19th May 2009 duly circulated.

2. **Matters arising from Minutes.**

(a) David Blanchflower to be included on members present

(b) Membership Report – “By 19th February...” should read “Since 19th February...”

(c) 13. Any Other Business

(d) Mindgym: Should read Susan Greenfield has asked to us to evaluate other software

(e) A secretary for the Executive to replace Sue is required from next AGM

(f) A Speaker's Secretary to replace Ted as from August is required.

(f) Structure and composition of Committees – Question arose as to why three members of Executive are needed on committees. Everyone to put comments in writing on “Guidance for Committees” to Sue Watkinson before next meeting.

(g) Christ Church Old School – Demolition commences 20th July 2009 and then new build will hopefully to continue straight and perhaps be finished by year end.

3. **N.W Region** – Notes in advance of inaugural meeting had been circulated and the Minutes of that meeting are awaited. Alex McMinn reported that in essence its main objective was to facilitate learning and secondly to help on organisational matters. Because of the large area involved, residential courses may be considered. Initially the region will be funded by Third Age Trust.

4. **South Lancs U3A Network** – This network is one of 7 such in NW Region.

The first meeting has been held in our “home” ted chaired and Jeff & Davis attended. (A follow up meeting in Formby has been fixed).

Each U3A to decide and report their own decision on “shared membership”.

We agreed that decision on other U3A members attending our groups/classes should be cut and dried. Suggested that sale of tickets to social events should be “ring-fenced” for a period before being open to other U3A members if necessary. Ted to tell the Network of our decision. Group leaders to be informed other U3A members can attend our groups only if space available. A suitable note will be agreed.

Insurance indemnifies U3A members only.

David to let Jeff have a list of groups who need more members.

5. **Time to Learn** - Ted suggested that we should take note of this document and that it should be taken forward to a separate committee in due course. Alex noted that there was a series of inconsistencies in the document – much misunderstanding of leaders/tutors/co-ordinators and the different methodology required for each different role. Alex said that educators tolerated U3A purely because of the number of members taking part in its diverse activities. It was noted that social activity also played its vital part.

It was suggested that retiring Group Leaders should be suitably thanked & acknowledged. Whilst this is covered in the Newsletter, it was felt that the main thanks should emanate from the Group. Jeff to discuss at Group Support Meeting.

6. **Trustees Report** – Nothing to report

Membership Report – Pat reported 9 new members, 82 people have renewed, 19 people resigned, and 444 have paid with 351 outstanding. Next number to be issued 2464. Need to make sure Group Leaders see a current membership card. Suggested people could renew membership at group meetings if Group Leaders would take cheques. Ted & Pat will produce a suitable letter sent to members who have not paid.

8. Treasurers Report – Chris reported receipt of grant of £1,458.75 received from grant for over 60s Clubs from West Lancashire for year 2007/2008. Approx. £8,000 in current account, £20,000 on deposit and £8,700 in Groups. £5,000, Bond due for maturity immediately - decided to leave it in place. £7,600 in restricted account.

Grant from Lancashire County Council in respect of research into linking housebound via I/T was in jeopardy as difficult to find appropriate housebound in sufficient numbers. Ted asked Executive Members to help find folk and so enable the research to continue.

9. Committee Reports

(a) Resources – Beth Blamires – Chairman, gave out guidelines and asked for comments to be sent to her by email. Chris Jones and Alan Worthington have agreed to attend meetings. First meeting 8th August.

(b) Group Support and Learning – David Blanchflower reported three short courses painting –Saturday morning, Mediation – Wednesday evening and Calligraphy Wednesday afternoon to begin in September.

(c) Publicity – Newsletter - Of the 1382, 494 were picked up and 888 posted. Promotional leaflets to be updated and reprinted.

Ted suggested a push for new members in September or October. People have arrived at Scout Hut for Horizons and therefore missing out on coffee meetings revenue and possibly new members.

Are we represented at outside events for recruitment of new members. Best form of publicity is word of mouth.

(d) Social – Summer event has to date sold 37 tickets. Aughton Village Hall has made a difference to selling tickets. Possibly announce coming events at groups/classes.

10. Special Projects – Tele Link already dealt with. Alex gave following update:

(a) Reading Mentoring – Training of Mentors is recruiting –Joyce Turner is dealing with it.

(b) Brookside – Alex suggested getting a representative from the Development come and talk to the Executive Committee to explain the project so it can be decided what is needed to be done.

(c) Ormskirk Library is re-opening end of July – Has been refurbished as an informal learning centre. Alex suggested we contact them to arrange a meeting so we can collaborate with them.

11. Secretary's Matters

(a) Third Age Trust – Diaries ordered; Copyright licence renewed. AGM Conference has to be booked by end of June. Jeff, Ann & Dorothy may attend.

(b) Received email from Glenthorne Quaker Guest House and Conference Centre re short and residential courses.

(c) New U3As – Alex reported on a possible new U3A based in Hesketh Bank. He has been discussing formations in Rainford and St Helens, but Rainford and St Helens have decided to combine and a new U3A called Windle may commence.

12 Any Other Business

Date of Next meeting 18th August not 21st July and then 15th September