

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK U3A

Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday 18th August 2009 in HQ

Present: Chairman Ted Morrell, Sue Watkinson, Bill Evans, Willem Wiechers, Chris Jones, Pat McKenzie, Ann Haskell, David Blanchflower, Alex McMinn, Norman Williamson, Carole Gray, Bernie Handford, and Jeff Roberts.

Apologies: Stan Bryan, Dorothy Harrison, Sandra Webster. No Trustees were present.

Ted welcomed everyone after 1 month break and remarked on need to replace Sue as secretary & newsletter editor at AGM. It was discussed and agreed that Ted's 2 year Chairmanship should run from AGM 2008 and that Jeff would take over at next AGM.

1. Minutes of meeting held 16th June 2009 agreed
2. Matters arising from Minutes
 - (a) Christ Church old school demolition: We agreed that Horizons will stay at Aughton Village Hall for next three months. Decision to be made at October meeting whether and when it is safe and feasible for Horizons to return to S & G HQ. Any change to be announced in Newsletter. We agreed to support an application by Christ Church for change of use for parking behind The Sands. New build will start immediately and will take 30 weeks.
 - (b) Speaker Meetings – Also to be discussed at October meeting. In the meantime Sue has booked at AVH for 5th November 2009 the Regional Manager of Action for Blind Mr Simon Dooley. Their caravan will be at AVH all day.
3. NW Region - Minutes of first meeting circulated. We, of course, remain totally autonomous and independent but will await news of their activities. Alex is NW Trustee for 1 further year.
4. South Lanes U3A Network A first step is the production of a matrix so we know what the 10 local U3As do and so facilitate sharing of ideas and increase cooperation. An idea to be discussed at 3rd September meeting is a "Jamboree" to be held in Southport in 2010. As Ted & Jeff are away Sue & David will represent us and ensure our views are aired. Any decisions will be referred back to this committee.
5. New Members Drive: It was agreed that new members are essential to refresh and at least maintain our progress. A possible New Members lunch will be discussed at the next meeting (200 folk have joined since our previous NML) various ideas to promote U3A were aired including a new flyer currently under consideration by the Publicity Committee.
6. Trustees' Report - nothing to report
7. Membership Report - Generally good response from reminder letters - no response from 127 letters. 1619 current members have paid. Next new member will be 2504. 45 new members since last meeting.
8. Treasurer's Report – Current Account balance £6856; £20,000 on deposit; Groups at £9,200. Rent up 18% to £2,500; Newsletters up 11%. Spent on IT upgrades - £300 with more to come. Admin runs at £2,000. Horizons down 30% totalling so far £757.
9. Committee Reports –
 - (a) Resources – Beth Blamires – It was agreed an inventory needed to be taken of recently purchased equipment. There was discussion around the tutor invoices as some contained costs of hire of premises. Next meeting 30th September.
 - (b) Groups Support and Learning – Jeff Roberts – Jeff circulated Minutes for Group Support meeting. Plans were well advanced for Group Leaders meetings to be held 28/10 and 30/10 at HQ divided into 5 groups, three at one meeting and two at the other with the objective of sharing good practices, exchanging experiences, sharing problems and to explore the learning aspects. Catering for the meetings in-house with a maximum budget £500. The Walking Group will become a "shareholder" in HF

Holidays for £100 to be raised by the walkers. This will enable them to obtain discounts. Whilst this was offered to U3A as a whole, there was some discussion as to the implications. Ted & Beth to investigate and report back.

(c) Publicity – Newsletters to be distributed on 26th August. It is hoped as many people as possible will collect. Display for U3A at Coronation Park on 31st August is planned. An additional web page has been made available for the Creative Writing Group.

(d) Social – Norman Williamson – Two sets of Minutes had been circulated. Tickets now selling for Sat 3rd October Quiz Night. Diaries on sale from beginning of September at £2 each. Christmas Lunch tickets £20 a head. Coach from Ormskirk if sufficient interest. Two Social Committee members always present at Information Welcome Desk and also man the Tea/Coffee

10. Special Projects – Alex McMinn (a) Mindgym is proving to be very successful. Alex is presenting a paper on this at Edinburgh with the object of this being cascaded to other U3As subject to the necessary trained personal being available. Andrew Beeston had reported that the use of the name was general and therefore felt we were OK to continue using the name. (b) Telelink for housebound and elderly still ongoing; meeting with Central Lancashire University has been arranged and also University of Cranfield interested in developing this. (c) Willem has arranged a Skype phone session Monday 5th October. This is reported in the Newsletter. (d) Mentor Reading volunteers has been asked to pay for their own CRB check (£85). This has become a stumbling block and idea has been dropped.

11. Secretary's matters – Sue Watkinson

(a) Third Age Trust – They are concentrating on AGM. Have sent out information on IT and Biscuits Week 23/25 September.

(b) UN International Day for Older People 1st October. – Beth to find out if there are any other events.

(c) Sue has ordered 400 copies of U3A News.

(d) Offer of 6 free swimming lessons for beginners from 8th September

12. Any Other Business

Bill Evans – Mentioned the difficulties of producing the Newsletter because of late arrival of information. He suggested that Group Leaders have demonstration of how the Newsletter is compiled – could be incorporated in Group Leaders meetings.

Date of Next meeting 15th September 2009