

AUGHTON & ORMSKIRK U3A

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2009 in HQ

Present: Vice-Chairman Jeff Roberts, Sue Watkinson, David Blanchflower, Chris Jones, Stan Bryan, Ann Haskell, Edna Lally, Norman Williamson, Dorothy Harrison

Trustee - Dr Alex McMinn, Trustee apologies: Andrew Beeston and Peter Sewell

Apologies: Beth Blamires, Carole Gray, Pat McKenzie, Ted Morrell, Willem Wiechers, Bill Evans, Bernie Handforth, Sandra Webster

1. **Minutes of meeting held August 2009** – Alex McMinn as Trustee was present; Edna Lally had apologised, otherwise Minutes agreed.

2. **Matters arising from Minutes:**

(a) Christ Church Old School – Rebuilding has begun and it is hoped to be finished by Easter. The small building left standing houses the services and will be demolished when the services are disconnected. The demolition does not seem to have caused too much disruption to meetings apart from the occasional moving of cars.

J * (b) Third Age Trust – Jeff circulated his report on the AGM at Edinburgh. Ian Searle is the new Chairman of TAT and the meeting was well attended. Sue thanked Jeff for attending on our behalf.

W * (c) Item concerning the Walking Groups - Ted and Beth were to investigate and report back regarding Walking Group becoming a shareholder in HF Holidays – to be carried forward to October meeting.

3. **Membership Report** – Given by Sue in Pat's absence. 23 new members; one late renewal; two deaths; 1642 paid members; next number to be issued 2527. Discussion on whether this information is giving out the wrong perception of our U3A in that it suggests we are losing members. Jackie Roscoe had offered to take over as key-holder for Tuesdays.

Alex McMinn has received application forms from West Lancashire B C to apply for the £2.50 for West Lincs residents. Suggested we could possibly have forms completed for this when people join/renew by asking two more questions either on the renewal of membership form or by involving Group Leaders.

4. **Treasurer's Report** – Chris presented a mini balance sheet for 5 months April – Aug. The West Lincs B C for £2,528 was for two years. Discussion on whether we pay an annual maintenance for 5 years for risograph or £75 per call out. David Blanchflower suggested this be given to Finance Group to look into and report back. Bond to be renewed for a further three months. Discussion on the fact that U3A must not hold events for to support other charities. Finance Group to consider and possibly insert a note in the Newsletter.

There was concern mentioned by the amount of paper which is disappearing from upstairs.

5. **Committee Reports**

(a) Social – Norman Williamson reported they had had no meeting since last Executive Meeting therefore no minutes. Quiz Night tickets sold out; diaries are going well; Christmas Lunch tickets will be on sale from beginning of October.

(b) Resources – No report in the absence of Beth

J * (c) Group Support and Learning – Working hard on Group Leaders meetings, Personal invitations are going out. Both meetings will now be held at Aughton Village Hall.

Discussion on the charge of 50p or £1 per attendee for accommodation and drink for meetings. Stipulated it should be a minimum of 50p per attendee. Some groups feel they have to collect rental. Evening meetings are charged separately and table tennis has agreed an increase to £1 per session, due to the length of their afternoon.

(d) Publicity – Stan said much midnight oil was burned in getting the Newsletter to the printers on time as deadlines are not being adhered to. This to be brought to the Group meetings. Of the Newsletters, 1244 went out with 494 collected and 750 put in the post. Coronation Park - This was a poorly attended event mainly due to weather. Stan thanked Jeff for the use of a gazebo. David Blanchflower suggested we purchase a gazebo for future events. Due to a busy time with the Newsletter and people on holiday, the new leaflets are still being prepared and worked on. Alex

requires the leaflets for the expanding facilities in the library and a number of retirement meetings he will be attending.

6. **Special Projects** - Alex suggested that the newspaper clippings and old Newsletters kept in the filing cabinets should be catalogued. This could possibly be arranged by the Resources Committee. Alex stated he will only be a member of the National Executive Committee for one more year and a replacement will be needed from next April. His Chairmanship of the Research Committee will continue, to include Government relations with U3A/responsibility for older people and well being. Willem had suggested we have a day when he could demonstrate what a skype phone can do. Alex suggested perhaps we could buy some more for loan.

Telelink for housebound is proceeding. Central Lancashire University group presentation with Sanbox 30 Oct/Nov will help our progress with housebound. Cranfield University is working with U3A nationally. Book-reading group might like to be involved in this link.

Swine flu situation - 44 cases during last week in Ormskirk. Lots of people congregate therefore a potential risk. Alex will produce leaflet to give out at Horizons, giving advice on flu friends and the symptoms/treatment. The situation will be kept under observation.

Social Prescribing - Alex presented a paper. GPs and possibly Social Workers could send patients to U3A who have mild mental health problems through a "One Stop Advisory Centre". Agreed that this needs careful thought as we do not wish our U3A to be flooded with people on anti-depressants. Members to read the paper and consider again at the next meeting. Mindgym - Through Alex presenting the Mindgym paper, Aughton & Ormskirk was the only U3A with a scientific contribution to the AGM.

New Mindgym for groups at end of year. Susan Greenfield has agreed to be involved in this research connected with Mindgym programme. Ann Stark wishes to finish at the end of the year and Norma Seddon has agreed to take her place. A member of Upholland U3A will come to learn how programme is taught.

Alex has received a brochure from NICE - They have a list of 137 occupational therapists who are trained to deliver this programme which would help other U3As.

7. **New Members Meeting**. - Norman suggested that a proposal should be placed before the next meeting to decide on programme, timing, cost against results from the first meeting..
8. **Trustees Report** - Alex reported that the next Trustees meeting is on the 21st October to sign off the Accounts before they go to the Charity Commission.
9. **Secretary's matters** - Sue Watkinson

a. Third Age Trust - Andrew Beeston and Beth Blamires have volunteered to consider amendments to our own Constitution in September, Ray Sim will be invited to work with them. Alex explained the reasons why we have our own Constitution with Trustees. No communication from Third Age Trust, although the Scottish Charities body has now approved the draft model TAT Constitution. Ted will take over as Chairman of Trustees in May. Contact with the Charities Commissioners must be only via Alex or Ray.

b. U3A events and activities. Sue has organised a question and answer meeting at the Aughton Village Hall explaining the Digital Switchover under the auspices of Age Concern.

Fire Safety Officers will be present at Horizons on 8th October to deal with question of safety and smoke alarms.

c. Action for Blind People -5th November - both rooms booked at Aughton Village Hall for a speaker meeting. The information vehicle will be on the Village Hall car park all day..

d. Tony Crimlisk for special music and drama event - This to be discussed at October meeting.

10. **NW Region** - Information in NW Newsletter is not reaching anyone beyond the Executive therefore events which are being organised are not being supported. David suggested this be put on website with a paragraph in the Newsletter directing people to website. Possibly the NW Newsletter could be recopied and given out at Horizons.

11. **South Lanes Network** - David and Sue had attended a recent meeting and reported that this was not very productive. It was suggested we would support one large open meeting with a high powered speaker provided we had breakdown of costs. Funding for this would on a per capita basis and needs discussion.

Maghull U3A have decided not to have reciprocal arrangements.

12. **Any other business** - None