

## Aughton & Ormskirk U3A

### Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19 January 2010 in HQ

**Present:** Ted Morrell, Sue Watkinson, David Blanchflower, Carole Gray, Chris Jones, Dorothy Harrison, Edna Lally, Stan Bryan, Pat McKenzie, Jeff Roberts, Bernie Handford, Norman Williamson, Ann Haskell, Bill Evans

**Trustee:** Ray Sim

**Apologies:** Sandra Webster, Beth Blamires, Alex McMinn & Willem Weichers

Ted welcomed Wendy Craddock to the meeting.

#### 1. Minutes of the meeting held on 15 December were amended as follows:

Introductory Seminar for Mindgym has had 4 courses not 5

Special Projects – Paper on Gateway Projects - note to be put on website by Willem.

Constitution – Stan raised the issue of curtailing the period of grace for membership and suggested that anyone who had not renewed their subscription by the date the newsletter labels are printed (for 2010 this is 13 May) would not receive their newsletter in the normal way on distribution day.

#### 2. Matters arising from Minutes

- (a) Christ Church Old School – Rebuilding has been held up due to adverse weather. Ted has asked the Vicar when he envisages Horizons can return to HQ and if Speaker meetings are to be held in the Church or in the new Church Hall; no decision has yet been made. It was mentioned that the fitted-out building will be handed over by the builders on the 12<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup> April but will be unfurnished. Nothing has changed with regard to the future of the Sands.
- (b) Archiving materials – Jeff stated two new filing cabinets have arrived.
- (c) New Musical Theatre Group – This will not now proceed. The new Musical has been deferred. The Drama Group will decide how to proceed.
- (d) “Vulnerable” members – No report – Beth has a paper but was unable to attend.
- (e) New Members Meeting - 230 letters distributed with a possible 100 to 120 people attending the meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> Jan. Members not attending will be sent the same questionnaire. Group Support Committee recommends two meetings each year, the next to be in October.

#### 3. Annual General Meeting – To be held 6<sup>th</sup> May 2010 at Aughton Village Hall commencing at 10.30 a.m. to be advertised in Newsletter. Members retiring: Ted, Sue, Carole and Sandra; Norman wishes to offer himself for re-election; Willem would like to become an elected member and not co-opted; Wendy Craddock is taking on the job as secretary; Alex McMinn would like to return to the Executive. There was some discussion about retirements and re-elections.

The new National Constitution will shortly be issued. Ted proposed that we do not make changes at the 2010 AGM but defer until 2011 AGM. This was seconded by David and unanimously passed. The Trustees will be asked to make final recommendations (taking account of Andrew Beeston's suggestions and new model) to the Executive by end of September.

Discussion on the U3A making charitable donations to other charities - Chris suggested this be left alone as we have had acceptable direction from Charity Commission.

There will be no change in the subscriptions, which will remain unaltered for year 2010 and 2011.

#### 4. Reciprocal Membership

We would like all those who attend our Groups etc to be our members, paying a full fee, even if also a member of another U3A. However to make a Group viable, and for short courses, we will exceptionally waive this rule.



5. Speaker Meetings – After discussion, it was agreed we continue with Speaker Meetings and the suggested month was June following the AGM to avoid the time when people are renewing membership. Suggested Ted, Sue and Jeff meet and liaise with Speaker Secretary (Michelle Trace)

6. Membership Report – Nine new members at last meeting; next number to be issued 2601; 1723 paid up members. Forms for West Lancashire are still very very slow to come in. Membership of 1716 at 31.12.2009 to be used in Annual Return.

7. Treasurer's Report – Paper presented showing main items of income/expenditure to date in line with budget. Capitation of £6,000 to be paid. Balances C/A £5,190 D/A £10,009 Groups £13,200

8. Secretary's matters

Received cover notes for Public and Product Liability Insurance and Trustee Liability Insurance.

Notice of National Talk by Royal Institution 30<sup>th</sup> March – major speaker on a science topic  
Software for Students leaflet

New Leaflet on shared Learning projects

Regional Support Structure Options

Potted version of the story of U3A – suggested we buy 5 copies @ £2.50 each

New Edition of U3A News due early next week – we plan to reduce numbers still further

John Ellison of North West Committee will replace Alex as North West Trustee (Zone Trustee)

One Day Regional Conference on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February in Preston from 10a.m. until 4 p.m. with Ian Searle as Speaker. Lyn Jonas is also speaking Ted suggested at least two people should attend. Jeff and Ann might possibly attend. Dorothy asked why we need all these other committees.

AGM at Manchester 25<sup>th</sup> May, Guest Speaker is a Professor of Archaeology.

9 (a) Social – Norman Williamson – No meeting since last Executive. Sale of diaries made a profit of £20; Christmas Lunch made a profit of £750 including raffle which made just over £500., Murder Mystery Night 20<sup>th</sup> March with Hot Pot supper at HQ; tickets to go on sale 4<sup>th</sup> February at £6. Ann Haskell requested all the Committee members be thanked for their hard work, and also thanks to the coffee team who turned out on the two Thursdays during the very bad weather.

(b) Resources – The planned meeting had been cancelled because of the weather. Beth is finalising the completion of "Awards for All" Return. Considering putting another application in for a small grant. A large grant can be applied for bi-annually, a small grant annually.

Financially groups all OK; any exception being taken up by AAW. Due to weather conditions Aughton Village Hall lost revenue because of cancelled meetings. Suggested some rental should be offered for these cancelled bookings.

(c) Groups Support and Learning – Jeff referred to Item 5 of his minutes. Has arranged two training days 8<sup>th</sup> February and 8<sup>th</sup> March for Group Leaders who require training in the use of various audio/visual equipment. He highlighted the popularity of the short courses.

(d) Publicity – Stan Bryan – Invitation received from Ormskirk Library for opening of the refurbished Library for Friday of this week.

The theme for the next Newsletter is IT. U3A staying at Aughton Village Hall until after the AGM in May.

(e) Welfare – Helping Each Other – Dorothy Harrison – Vulnerable Members meeting postponed. To be discussed before next meeting. Dial-a-Ride to 39 Steps was much appreciated. Small losses made because of people wanting to go to the Theatre but are unwell

on the day. Suggested the Dial-a-Ride is promoted in the Newsletter in the Theatre section as it is also available for people who are unable to get onto the normal coach.

10. Special Projects – No report.

11. Trustees Report – No report – Trustees have not met.

12. NW Region/South West Lanes – NW Region had lots going on.. Ted recommended that we continue to support and consider putting forward a candidate for nomination next year.  
The SW Lanes Network meet on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

14. Any other business

New Year Holiday - Pat McKenzie - Adverse comments were received about the holiday in Scotland arranged by Discovery Travel under the auspices of the U3A. Suggested a meeting be arranged with John from Discovery Travel as the standard of the food and the hotel itself was not good. Ted agreed to have a word with Alex.

Ann Haskell produced a cutting from a newspaper which raised the issue of music fees of £81 for an annual licence for a building which plays music which is over and above the PRS licence. Sue to find out implications for all buildings involved with music.

Meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.