

Aughton & Ormskirk U3A

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16th February 2010

Present: Jeff Roberts, Sue Watkinson, Wendy Craddock, Beth Blamires, Chris Jones, Stan Bryan, Edna Lally, Bernie Handford, Norman Williamson, Dorothy Harrison, Ann Haskell, Carole Gray, Bill Evans

Trustee: Andrew Beeston, Alex McMinn

Apologies: David Blanchflower, Pat McKenzie, Ted Morrell, Sandra Webster, Willem Wiechers

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 January 2010 agreed

2. Matters arising from Minutes

- (a) Christ Church old school – Parking becoming increasingly more inconvenient; hand-over of building now possibly in May
- (b) Archiving matters - A new member with the knowledge of archiving to be approached in this respect.
- (c) "Vulnerable" members – Beth tabled an article from The Guardian explaining the new policy for discussion at our next meeting. Lin Jonas believes that our current members are not "vulnerable" but this issue needs to be addressed. Suggest that Beth, Dorothy and Secretary have a meeting to look at this topic in detail as any future applications for grants will ask if we have a Vulnerable Protection policy.
- (d) New Members meeting – Ann Haskell produced an analysis of the questionnaire taken at this meeting,. It was noted how few were prepared to volunteer possibly because some members came from outside Aughton & Ormskirk area. After much discussion the consensus was that we should carry on with the two New Members meetings per annum with the next one be in October. Perhaps an article in the Newsletter would help with the volunteering, suggesting that more effort could be encouraged within Groups. The catering team were thanked for a wonderful tea.
- (e) Speaker Meetings – No progress to report apart from the fact that it was understood Ted has spoken to Michelle Trace (Speaker Secretary) – Jeff has a list of speakers and is waiting for confirmation for a venue in June.

3. Annual General Meeting – Notice for this is in the Newsletter. No-one wished to add anything to the agenda. Quorum for meeting is 100 members. Coffee will be provided free of charge.

4. Membership Report – In Pat's absence, Sue read her report. Since last meeting 25 new members and one death. Membership now 1747 – next number to be issued 2626. West Lancs forms are now coming in.

5. Treasurer's Report – Current account £1,400 with future expenses of £4,000; Deposit account £5,000; Groups £15,000 but no rent paid for Groups yet. Chris suggested a reserve for the Groups rentals; Bond £5,000. He has paid half rental for Aughton Village Hall when meetings had to be cancelled due to the bad weather and stated that rentals generally will increase in the next 12 months. The minimum 50p meeting attendance fee will not be increased in the near future.

6. Secretary's matters

- (a) Third Age Trust- It was agreed that the order for "U3A News" should be reduced from 400 to 300.
- (b) U3A Events and activities – Nothing to report apart from the Sinfonietta tickets selling reasonably well. – Performance Saturday afternoon 6th March.
- (c) Music Fees – Sue has emailed West Lancs Licensing Department with regard to this extra licence fee but has received no reply.

7. Committee Reports –

- (a) Social – Norman had circulated the Minutes and wished to discuss the Christmas Lunch and obtain the views of the Executive Committee as to whether the format should be changed. After much discussion it was agreed that the Christmas Lunch should carry on as before, to offer an opportunity for those who do not celebrate with a group and to offer a "corporate" event for the whole of our U3A.. The ticket sales for the Murder Mystery night were going quite well.
- (b) Resources- Beth circulated the Minutes. The rental for the use of S&G HQ was £1500 for 3 quarters rising to £1800 for 1 quarter. This ignores evening use and Saturday use. It was mentioned that a Group Reserve account might possibly affect applications for grants. U3A still paying for car

parking facilities to the Church and Aughton Institute. Beth stated she had put in a grant to Lancashire Gateway through Lancashire County Council for a grant of £3,960 for opera and musical groups for stereo equipment, audio visual equipment and computer equipment. However, they had asked for a Vulnerable Adults policy. Beth has already sent in End of Awards Report for lottery funding received last March. Costs of increased security for equipment considerably higher than budgeted for. Grant overspent.

- (c) Groups Support and Learning – Next meeting Monday 22nd February. Two equipment training afternoons arranged for 8th February and 8th March. Unfortunately only two people turned up for the first one Bill Watkinson had prepared an instructions manual for the equipment for those who attend the training. Bernie mentioned that although he had found a CD player with the equipment, a surround sound system was needed for the flat screen television.
- (d) Publicity – Newsletter distribution is 25th February.
- (e) Welfare – Helping Each Other – Dorothy has sent over 10 cards recently and one person has died. She mentioned that members are taking flowers to people within their group whom they have not seen for a while. It must be seen not to be a regulated activity such as once a week or four hours a month because as an organisation we then have a duty to have CRB checks. This is on a friendly basis.

Andrew Beeston quoted the Act of Law & Equity and asked where had common sense gone? It was agreed we should not become a lobby group.

The word “welfare” was discussed but we do not have a definition. Chris suggested this was the wrong word. Dorothy suggested we should have a “loose group” to visit lonely people. Sue suggested this activity should come from within a group.

Jeff had been approached by George Slawinski who is a member of both U3A and the Chernobyl Committee who asked whether U3A could be approached to find some volunteers for the summer visit. The Chernobyl Committee would organise their CRB checks. Jeff confirmed we had agreed that we cannot make announcements for other charities.. It was agreed that George Slawinski could produce a handbill to leave on the tables at Horizons.

8. Special Projects – No report

- 9. Trustees Report – Andrew read out a summary of five things the Trustees should do. Ted Morrell will take over as Chairman of the Trustees at the first meeting following the AGM.

- 10. NW Region – Jeff, Ann and Beth had attended the recent meeting. 56 delegates attended representing 28 of the 70 U3As in the region. The three speakers were Kathleen Mercier, Chairman of NW Region from The Wirral, Ian Searle, National Executive Chairman and Lin Jonas, Secretary of TAT, and all spoke well. Lin Jonas gave a list of what the Third Age Trust National Office would provide for us – details also on the website. Group Leaders do not require to be professionally trained for liability purposes eg Pilates – Ted is aware of this. Details of the Legal Helpline can be obtained from Sue. The overall theme was communication. There are 750 U3A's in the country and the major challenge for The Third Age Trust is communication and keeping the movement cohesive.

- 11. South Lancs Network – Report circulated. Big speaker meeting now postponed. Jeff and Sue explained the difference between NW Region and South Lancs Network. Third Age Trust send information to each individual U3As – there is nothing in between. Each U3A is autonomous. Jeff explained the setting up of the NW Region. Every U3A in this region is automatically a member of the NW Region. – South Lancs Networks consists of Burscough, Aughton & Ormskirk, Southport Meols, Upholland, Mawdesley, Maghull, Crosby, Birkdale, Ashton-in-Makerfield – Central Southport not participating at the moment. Possibility of NW Region charging each member 10p per member for funding. Third Age Trust expects only one capitation fee from each individual member and where someone belongs to more than one U3A then only one U3A should charge and submit this fee. However it is difficult to manage under the present membership arrangements and duplication of the capitation fee will inevitably occur.

12. Any Other Business - None