

Aughton & Ormskirk U3A

Executive Committee

Minutes 21st April 2015

Present: Willem Wiechers (Chairman); Geoff Roberts (Vice Chairman); Pauline Jones (Secretary); Cathleen Barnes; Lily Bunner; Bill Evans; Mia Faza; Bernie Handford; Dorothy Harrison; Stan Livingston; Alex McMinn; Iain Smart; Bill Watkinson.

- 1. Welcome:** The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- 2. Apologies:** Ian Haskell; Idris Williams.
- 3. Minutes of meeting 17th March:** These were read and amended as necessary.
- 4. Matters Arising:** PJ. Stated that she had replied to Dennis Morley's letter. IS. Asked for a copy of the amended minutes to be sent to him. PJ. Agreed to this request.
- 5. Correspondence Received:** PJ announced that she had received a resignation letter from Idris Williams who will stand down at the AGM. A member had asked that the issue regarding expenses paid to Trustees should be raised at the AGM. PJ stated that she had received a telephone call from a member who intends to raise the same issue at the AGM. The Chairman suggested that the Treasurer should make a statement regarding this matter at the AGM. The Treasurer agreed to this. With regard to the expenses paid to Secretarial Services, these have been discontinued.
- 6. Tenure on Committee.** There was an extended discussion on the principle of members only serving for a 6 year term only on the committee, i.e. members can't serve a second term of 6 years as this isn't allowed for in the 2004 constitution. A vote was held on to reconfirm this principle and all agreed unanimously. This principle was used for rejecting a nomination of a previous member of the committee who wished to stand again, and it also applies to another nominee who already has served a three year term and can therefore only serve for another 3 year period.
- 7. AGM:**
 - a. Agenda.** The Chairman and Secretary have prepared the Agenda. It is awaiting finalisation with dates and the inclusion of names of nominees.
 - b. Nominations for Executive:** The names of the nominees were read out and will now be posted on the website. The Chairman stated that, since he has now served six years on the Executive Committee (including one year as a co-opted member) he will be standing down at the AGM. The Membership Secretary IH is willing to continue in his role and should be re-elected. A.McM. proposed a vote of thanks to IH for his hard work. The Chairman

thanked all the committee for their work. PJ thanked the Chairman for all his work over the last busy year.

c. Motions: No motions have been received.

d. Membership Fees for 2016/7: The Treasurer pointed out that, as rentals fees for premises are to rise considerably in the next year, we should not consider reducing the Annual Membership fee. Also, Gift Aid will cease, be reduced or scrapped and therefore this will mean that there will be more costs for our U3A to absorb. A proposal that the fees should remain as they are at present i.e. £15 was carried by 11 votes to 2.

e. Date of 2016 AGM: The Treasurer stated that it would allow more time for the Annual Accounts to be finalised if the AGM was held later in the year. It was proposed that the AGM be held on Thursday 2nd June 2016. This was agreed unanimously.

8. Constitution: The Chairman stated that the new draft constitution should be sent to the Charity Commission and the Third Age Trust. This was agreed.

9. Payments to Members: This was covered under Correspondence.

10. Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer confirmed that the main account will be finalised today. He raised concern about members who grumble to other members about aspects of U3A finance instead of talking to him directly about such matters. Deposit Account £28,210.81. Main Account £24,059.26. Groups Account £15,124.73. Deposit Bond £20,000.00.

11. Membership Secretary's Report: The Membership Secretary was not present at this meeting.

12. Sub-Committee Reports: **a. Social Committee.** : The summer event which will be at AVH on 20 June is organised. WW recommended that details be sent to the Web editor.

b. Groups Support. : It was reported that Jean Weldon who has organised the Philharmonic Group is retiring from the role. She has made bookings for September 2015 to June 2016. WW recommended that a formal letter should be sent to Jean to thank her for her work. An appeal for a volunteer to take over is being made. PJ stated that a volunteer is needed to run the Sunday Social also. The new Book Group meets on 2nd Tuesday of the month in Headquarters. Plans are underway for an Architectural course, a Chemistry course and some sessions dealing with Dementia. B. Handford reported that he has equipment available for archiving memories. The Group Support hopes to arrange a course at Briars Hall, Lathom for Group Leaders. **c. Finance & Resources:** No recent meetings to report. IW has resigned and BH is retiring from the U3A committee. **d. Publicity.** The Chair of Publicity announced that this committee will be holding a meeting on 30th April therefore there is nothing to report.

13. Speaker Secretary's Report: The Jill Fielding concert was attended by 164 members. The Speech by A. McMinn attracted 154 members. The Speaker on 2 July will be Stephen Cross who will talk about 'The Valley of the Kings'. On 15 October Angela Danby who is a journalist will speak of her experiences interviewing some famous people. On 2nd Thursday of December U3A choir will present Christmas Carols.

14. Secretary's Notices: TAT is holding a meeting on 11 June where there will be a Committees Forum to share ideas and solutions amongst U3A's. The NW regional U3A is holding a meeting at the Crewe Arms Hotel on 4 June and requires 2 delegates. BW and Sue have agreed to attend. A meeting of the SW network funded by TAT will be at St Theresa's church hall Upholland, AMcM. Offered to attend. A letter from J Malkin Ormskirk hospital was received advising of a meeting on 28 May at 10.30 at 13 Curzon Road Southport 'to discuss ways and ideas in which her community services can link up to give support to people with long term conditions and help alleviate loneliness in the elderly within the community'. Two members have offered to attend.

AOB: CB suggested that Group Leaders and Committee members who feel obligated to attend Horizons every week should be entitled to complimentary tea or coffee. This was rejected by the committee as being too difficult to administrate.

It was agreed that the date of the first Committee Meeting after the AGM should be the first Tuesday after the AGM.

Date of next meeting: AGM 7th May 2015 10.30 am.

Date of next Committee Meeting: 12th May 2015 9.30 am. Venue: Ministry Centre.

The meeting was closed at 11.50 am.