

Meeting of Management Committee
Monday 29th March 2021 at 3pm via Zoom

Present – Geoff Roberts (Trustee), Sue Watkinson (Trustee), Lorna McDade (Trustee)
Alan Starkie, John Tomlinson, Derrick Fewings, Ian Grant, Les Rippon, Mike Rimmer, Paul
Andrews, Doreen Baker, Colin Russ, Megan Tomlinson, Pamela Ball, (MC) Alan Nolan.

Apologies

- 1 Chairman's Welcome
- 2 Apologies

None

- 3 Minutes of previous meeting

Accepted as a true record

- 4 Matters arising.

Christmas Lunch booked for December 10 2021

- 5 Correspondence

None

- 6 Treasurer's Report

Derrick referred to documents already shared. Mention was made of the spreadsheet showing information about groups re-opening plans.

May 17 – only limited number of groups considering reopening at that time.

Action: Derrick Fewings and Paul Andrews to ring around group leaders to capture any info about reopening under Rule of 6 etc. after Government give next update w/c April 5.

About 30% groups are opting to start in September – an update will be sought from group leaders during June to see if any are going to open on June 21.

Discussion took place about whether proof of vaccinations is required for members to take part in activities and if this could be enforced. Doubtful if this could be imposed as a condition legally. Such a decision would have to be taken at an AGM. MC could express the desire that only those people who have two vaccinations can attend events. Suggested that we encourage people to be vaccinated. A final decision will need to be taken at the AGM. An interim position is needed and the Membership should decide the position at the AGM.

Need people to understand that there is an expectation that they assist in cleaning after an event. Position statement of MC agreed as: "MC will encourage members to consider their own well-being and that of the whole membership around vaccinations against COVID".

Action: Derrick to put forward a final version of words for approval. Such info would need emailing to all of membership.

Discussion took place re walking groups – their activities must adhere to the rule of 6 up until May 17 when it can then be 30.

PPE – some group leaders asked are we providing it. Agreed this wouldn't be the case.

Action: week of April 19 a communication is needed re good practice and from late June 2021 members need to know that they must take responsibility for looking after their own wellbeing and that they be encouraged to have both vaccinations before participating in any face to face events. Suggested that the message is contained in the email rather than as an attachment.

Date for Horizons to restart – noted that the Scout HQ will reopen after Easter Holidays for youth group face to face meetings.

Could there be two Horizons sessions per week encouraging people to attend one only?

Is this an opportunity to have a new approach to Horizons? Maybe a group of interested people could work on a proposal. Suggestion of Horizons being once per month and held in the Ministry Centre with a small charge for refreshments. This could make Horizons more inviting to new members.

Action: Pamela Ball offered to put something together for next MC meeting. People encouraged to put suggestions to her via email.

Premises – scope for dropping some of the locations – in particular Age UK, Lydiate VH, Aughton WI. Informal discussions have taken place between Derrick Fewings and Alan Bristo re use of Aughton Village Hall (AVH). Discussion with AVH deferred until last quarter of the year when the matter is discussed at AVH MC.

It is important that final decisions are made for the long term once it becomes clearer about future membership numbers. Main priority is to get things going. If there are non-contentious suggestions re moving premises then agreed Paul and Derrick could make these with Group Leaders.

Session fees on restart will be £1 per head. This has been previously agreed.

Fixed costs at Scout HQ will remain same regardless of number of members.

Difficult to know what situation will be re numbers until we get started.

7 Consolidation of re-opening plans

Discussed under 6

8 Membership Report

1537 at present.

Lapsed members must pay £15 when restart between now and end of membership year. If new people or lapsed members join during September 2021 they will pay £15 which will take them through to 30 September 2022.

Communication needs to go out to the people who have lapsed in terms of membership (around 300) that they need to pay now to take part in activities currently provided. Some technical difficulties with lapsed member paying via Beacon online – will need to pay by cheque.

Discussion took place about group leaders and use of Beacon. On restart a tutorial session needed for Group Leaders. Paul Andrews will encourage group leaders to use Beacon when contacting them about restarting.

9 Communications sub-committee report

Newsletter published recently – emailed, posted and hand delivered. Warning noted about websites of organisations including phone numbers and email addresses of members. Telephone numbers only are listed for group leaders on website.

Action: One off communication to go out to all members w/c April 19. Message to be contained in the body of the email. Items to be included - £1 session fee, the need to rejoin before coming to activities plus info from Derrick (see item 6, second action point).

U3A day on 2 June – opportunity to promote for new members. This could be a way of re-recruiting people. Discussion took place re those who are over 90 - whilst they benefit from free u3a membership they do need to rejoin. Problems of sensitivity around this in terms of contacting people.

Action - message to go out about free membership for over 90s. Doreen and Dierdre to look at and liaise with Mike and Megan.

Discussion then took place on use of Zoom after June 21 – Paul Andrews said that the only groups suggesting using it were language groups. Members attending by Zoom must be paid up members – group leaders need to ensure that this is the case.

Do group members know when their group is restarting? Is it not up to group leaders to contact their members?

Action: to be addressed at next meeting. Info to be published on the website.

Discussion took place about science group and need for new leaders. Painting, cribbage, yoga 1, scrabble and line dancing face issues as well.

Is a magazine to be published at end of May/early June? To be discussed at Communications Group. Should it be a shorter document? Who is going to lead on the magazine? Is a group needed to look at this?

Action: Magazine production to be discussed at Communications group initially and then brought back to the MC.

10 Date of U3a AGM/TAT AGM clash August 26 2021

TAT at 11.15am, U3a is at 10am. Location of our AGM agreed to use the Ministry Centre – agreed. Megan agreed to follow up booking. Notice to go out to members in July. Final discussion needed about the AGM including agenda – to include items on COVID vaccination requirements, 6-year tenure on MC, constitution, MC/Trustees.

Action: Doreen to discuss with Megan tenure of members on the MC at present.

11 AOB

Thanks were given to Derrick and Paul for their excellent work over the restart.

Suggestion of a topic of relaunch to be included on next MC agenda – to include new members, new leaders and new groups.

Action: MC asked Communications Committee to discuss relaunch ideas and report back to MC.

12 Date of next meeting

Tuesday April 27 2021 at 3pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....