

Meeting of Management Committee
Tuesday 29th June 2021 at 3pm via Zoom

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

1 Chairman's Welcome

2 Apologies

Mike Rimmer

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 24.05.21.

Accepted as a true record

4 Matters arising.

Item 8 – objects and dissolution are part of constitution and need two thirds majority. MC haven't the power to make the change it has to take place at the AGM.

Arrangements for first New Horizons meeting – banner and music arranged plus free draw with prizes donated by local traders. Containers been planters outside AVH as well.

Technical requirements for speakers at New Horizons – this are complex and maybe not worth considering for use only once per month.

5 Correspondence

None

6 Treasurer's Report

Balance: 53k at end May but still need to pay Third Age Trust for membership – that will take balance down to £48k. This means balance will go below agreed reserves. ***Agreed to look and see what first quarter will look like before taking any action.***

HQ – paying monthly retainer until end of June. Most groups are deferring a start until September so likely that there will be a financial hit July and August. Question raised about last time rent renegotiated – this was 3 years ago – indicative of good relationship with Scouts. ***Agreed U3A absorb the rent costs of July and August.***

Reference made to the amount of work undertaken to obtain information about which groups are meeting when and where. The result is a concise document which can be used in magazine etc.

Relationship with Aughton Village Hall (AVH) was discussed and the fact that from here on in this should be between AVH and group leaders. Need to be aware that if groups have booked AVH and then don't use it there could be a charge applied for missed sessions at short notice. This is not confirmed at present. Previous arrangements apply to HQ.

Agreed to adhere to October 1 2021 as start of next membership year.

7 Re-start status plus notes from Restart Working Party

July 19 appears to be the new date for removal of lockdown restrictions nationally. This led to discussion around what advice the government may or may not issue and possible impact on New Horizons and in particular numbers which can be catered for inside AVH.

Agreed after discussion to continue with the plan to launch New Horizons.

Discussion took place re Refreshment group. Agreed that only paid-up members can be part of the Refreshment group. This is important to ensure that Third Age Trust Insurance is not invalidated. There has been an offer from A Roberts to take over the serving of refreshments.

Premises – number of premises being used for activities now reduced.

Use of Beacon by Group Leaders – felt that a training session is needed. Suggestion that all Group Leaders could be asked to hand in a list of members of their group to Membership who could then allocate members to groups though this would be a big exercise. Suggestion made that all group leaders should check at least once a year that members of their groups are paid up members of U3A. A further suggestion that a MC member could attend a meeting of each group and look at register of attendees which could then be cross checked on Beacon.

Agreed that Group Leaders hand in a list of attendees when they hand in money to Treasurer. This would be checked by membership secretary. A form to be designed to be given out to group leaders.

8 Government step 4 update (28.06.21)

July 19 is the new date.

9 Addition of Resolution for virtual meetings to AGM

Need to amend constitution to allow virtual meetings. This needs to be an agenda item at AGM – needs 51% majority to be accepted. Must be a quorate AGM. If no quorum then a rearranged AGM has to take place and any amendment would then then passed/rejected by simple majority of attendees.

Agreed that additional resolution for virtual meetings to be included in Constitution. Sue Watkinson and Ian Grant to work on wording and send to Megan Tomlinson.

10 Membership Report

1544 members currently.

Letters sent to lapsed members and those over 90.

11 Communication's Report

Newsletter – to be sent w/c July 12 – newsletter assumes government adheres to re-opening date of July 19. AGM Notice to be included in Newsletter with the resolution re Virtual Meetings. Update provided on contents of newsletter. Renewals for 2021-22 to be available from September 1 (online renewals possibly from 14 August – to be confirmed). Membership cards ordered. Paper renewals – attachment could go on website for people to download. Paper renewals could go out via group leaders. An e-news could go out in August with a link to a downloadable form. A note could be placed in newsletter informing people that those who haven't access to email can collect forms from New Horizons.

12 AOB

Chair's article in newsletter will refer to fact that U3A are following government advice with respect to re-opening and that members must take personal responsibility for their own personal care regarding COVID.

13 Date of next meeting

July 27 9.30am at HQ (Large Room).

Signed..... Date.....