

Aughton & Ormskirk U3A

Management Committee Meeting

Tuesday 27th February 2024 at 9.30am

Present: J Tomlinson, S Kierans, D Fewings, P Andrews, M Rimmer, L Rippon, D Blanchflower, P Ball, A Trigwell, M Tomlinson, D Slater, M Faza

1. Chairman's Welcome

Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

E Dixon

3. Minutes of Previous meeting (28.11.23)

Accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising

Tennis – no further developments. Important that any membership fees to join Tennis Club are paid directly to the club and do not pass through U3A accounts.

Projector in small room has been repaired.

Aughton and Ormskirk U3A is now on the U3A Trust map

5. Correspondence

None

6. Treasurer's Report

Accounts

As at end of January – surplus of £1468 in Activities, surplus in admin £11,947. Account balance £93,207 (compared to balance at end of last financial year of £79,793). Question raised about investments – Treasurer explained that we have some bonds with United Trust Bank – the bank operates within FCA rules and we don't exceed the £85k protection limit.

Gift Aid

Treasurer provided an update on current position and finer HMRC guidelines. Third Age Trust are in dispute with HMRC over the definition of "personal benefit". HMRC rules state that gift aid can't be

claimed on personal benefit (definition to be determined). Gift Aid should only be claimed on subscriptions minus personal benefit. HMRC interrogate claims over the last 7 years.

Reducing the u3a Bank Account Balance

Charity Commission guidelines state that the account balance should be 50% of a company's turn over – that would mean c £70k, however we are very low risk as we don't own premises etc. A working party has recommended that the membership fee could be reduced to £10 per year (from £15). The membership fee would be reviewed each year. Other options discussed including funding session fees – this would complicate the Gift Aid return to HMRC.

Further discussion took place and it was agreed that a proposal be put to the AGM that the annual subscription would be £10 and this would be reviewed annually in line with the constitution. This was accepted by all present.

Many thanks were given to the Treasurer for all of his hard work.

7. Finance Committee Report

Christmas lunch made a slight loss. Musical Theatre group made a healthy surplus on their last production, drama group made a slight loss on theirs.

8. Membership Report

Currently 1439 members. 132 new members this year. At end of renewal period group leaders were asked for their current register of members – in the main most responded. Discussion took place around the need for group leaders to maintain accurate records. Thanks were given to the membership team for their hard work.

9. Communications Report

Magazine being published in April – deadline for contributions end of March. The committee will discuss the process for the collation of material for the magazine.

Flyers discussed re advertising the U3A – agreed that these were very useful and should be continued.

Agreed that the e-news is very informative.

10. Social Committee Report

5th July Barn Dance. Aughton Village Hall.

Sept/Oct quiz night – date to be confirmed to avoid clashes with other events

Christmas Lunch – 6th December at Aughton Village Hall. Discussion took place re the putting up of the Christmas decorations and need for due health and safety regulations to be adhered to.

11. Group Support Report

A thank you event for group leaders in recognition for the work they have done was discussed. The next one of these is being planned for April at HQ. Thoughts to be given to communications with group leaders via Beacon.

Science group not continuing. No progress on formation of stamp collecting group. Poetry group now have a new leader and are moving back to HQ. Helping Each Other group closing due to lack of a leader. Art and Craft group starting up soon. Newly formed Pickleball group is thriving.

12. Secretary's report re AGM preparation

Date – June 13th 11.30am after Horizons in HQ. It is planned to have a remote possibility for attending the meeting. All members will be notified by email/letter at least 21 days beforehand.

Arrangements for tables, attendance sheets, monitoring numbers etc were discussed.

Any nominations for Membership Committee to put names forward – to be advertised.

13. AOB

Ian Haskell to step down as Beacon Administrator. A notice to be sent out via email to all members. A note will also be placed in the magazine.

First Aid – discussion took place regarding the need to review and look over the current health and safety policy and examine its implementation. A suggestion that a working party be set up and bring back recommendation to the management committee. M Faza to follow up.

14. Date of next meeting 28th May 2024 at 9.30am

SIGNED _____

PRINT NAME _____

DATE _____