

## Aughton & Ormskirk U3A

### Minutes of Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 August 2007 in Scout & Guide HQ

**Chairman:** Geoff Maitland

**Apologies:** Carole Gray, Dorothy Harrison, Jeff Roberts

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2007 were amended as follows:-
  - a) Item 6 – For “Local History” read “Drama”
  - b) Item 3 – Horizons and Speaker Meetings (3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence) – Delete “reluctantly”
2. Matters arising from the Minutes
  - a) Location of greetings cards used by Welfare – Margaret Fairhurst is helping Dorothy and she may have the answer to the question
  - b) Archiving of Minutes – There is no formal Minute Book, a loose leaf copy is kept. Agreed that signing the minutes is not essential. Decided that electronic back-up is necessary, perhaps also entry on the web site and a loose leaf binder for reference in the upstairs office in the interests of open government: include copies of all newsletters. Ted and Norman Platt will continue to prepare and implement their plans.
  - c) Re-organisation of rooms at Horizons – the new layout had been partially implemented but the “Information” sign is not available. Agreed that we should try again and include a statement of intent in the newsletter. (Note – subsequently decided not to put anything in the newsletter after a second attempt at re-organisation.)
  - d) 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday Plans – Alex had prepared a note of suggestions. There were some reservations about the involvement of Lancashire County Council and a general feeling that the birthday should be more of a celebration of the talents and activities of our own U3A. The Social Committee asked to be involved in the plans. Agreed that birthday celebrations (if in October) would take the place of a Christmas lunch. Suggested that there is now some urgency to get Groups involved – perhaps an item at the Group Leaders’ meeting?
3. Co-operation with Maghull U3A over holidays, theatre trips and days out – the approach had come from Maghull, where many visits and holidays need support. Agreed that the host U3A must remain in control and the appropriate Group Leaders should be consulted. Suggested that our own members must always have first refusal, for say, 4 – 6 Weeks. Norman Williamson raised the issue of membership of each U3A – this had caused some problems over the Maghull holiday to France. Agreed that A&O is not insisting on reciprocal membership so would not expect Maghull to do so either. Ted confirmed that there were no insurance issues.
4. Investment Club – Sue explained that Willem Weichers had proposed such a Club, to be run independently of U3A both legally and financially. Ted supported the idea of keeping the Investment Club at a distance. Although there was some reservation on the whole principle by some members it was agreed that a note should be included in the newsletter setting out the parameters.
5. Lobbying issues – Following a request by a member for information opposing the Ormskirk by-pass to be circulated, it was agreed that material may be distributed at Horizons for information but no lobbying must be done and there must not be any suggestion, implicit or explicit, that the organisation (U3A) is in support of the issue.
6. Trustee Report – Alex’s short report was taken as read.
7. Membership Report – Pat reported that 1485 members had now paid, 112 will be written off. The next number is 1877 and there have been 90 new members since 1 June. She asked whether we should celebrate member number 2000 or perhaps 2007? Deferred until September for further discussion and decision.
8. Treasurer’s Report – In Jeff’s absence there was no report. Some information had been passed to the Finance Committee.
9. Sub Committee Reports
  - a) **Finance** – Bob reported concern for control on expenditure. Comment was made on the funding requests and clarification offered on the monthly financial input by Digital Photography, making this Group worthy of an award. A question about the replacement photocopier was deferred to September for Jeff to make a firm (costed) proposal.  
The request for financial support for the Italian visit (not from the Italian Group) caused much discussion. Ted explained that the principle of twinning had been established many months ago (March/April) but that arrangements for this return visit by Macerata U3A had been planned at the last minute and had not been covered in Committee records. Jim explained what the application for funding would cover, i.e. entertainment, entry fees and hire of mini bus for a trip to Liverpool with Brian King. It was proposed by Ted, seconded by Alan and agreed that the costs of the visit up to £500 should be met by U3A. Geoff believed that this investment should be supported by a full report of the visit to the September meeting and hoped that the twinning exchanges would continue.

- b) **Social** – there were no formal minutes but Chris reported verbally.
- (I) Events – there was nothing further to discuss
  - (II) Welfare issues – nothing to report
  - (III) Horizons – already covered in previous items
- c) **Groups Support** – there were no formal minutes but Jim reported verbally
- (I) Survey of Groups was received with interest
  - (II) Group Leaders' Handbook and Annual Meeting – thanks were recorded to all who had been involved in updating the document. Suggested that the meeting is held at the end of November..
  - (III) Sunday Club – Although the numbers attending are low, the costs are covered. Meetings would be arranged for the last Sunday in September, October and November but if members are not willing to take on its organisation then it may be discontinued. Discussion and decision in November.
  - (IV) E-Learning – report from Alex that Suzanne Thompson was seriously ill and this had delayed activity.
  - (V) Internet Cafe – A report by Alan Nolan was presented. Members were asked to read this through privately and send any queries to Jim.
- d) **Publicity** – no meeting but Alan and Sue reported that the September-December newsletter was now complete, 16 pages with special centre spread, ready to be entered for the national competition.
- e) **External Relations and Sustainable Development** – Alex had presented a short report. Concern was expressed at the means by which views of members reach those representing them on outside bodies and how feed-back is processed. Suggested that minutes of outside bodies be placed in a folder as part of the U3A archive. Also that the West Lancs Older Persons' Partnership Board might welcome representatives from other U3As in the District. A meeting for Sustainable Development is planned for October 16.
- f) **Travel** – Two sets of minutes had been circulated. Norman Williamson reported that four holidays had been booked: Cornish Riviera in February, Austrian Alps in May, Killarney in July with a September trip to Madrid yet to be confirmed. A New Year visit to Bruges was planned for 2008-09. Clashes with Group holidays (Italian/Gardening) were likely and this would undoubtedly affect numbers. Discussion on the issues of Single Supplements resulted in a suggestion that pricing is offered as follows: Double room for two people £X; Single room for one person £X Double room for one person £X. Several members had expressed an interest in minority interest holidays and the possibility of setting up a Travel Group or Club, separate from the Travel Committee, was being explored. Norman confirmed that ring-fencing bookings for the benefit of our members was in the control of the Travel Committee.
- g) **Premises** – no meeting had been held but Geoff asked whether anyone had information about the future of St. Anne's Social Club as he had been invited to make a visit. Alex, Jeff and Tony Crimlisk had already met with Club officers.

*Fixed for  
26 October*

#### 10. **Third Age Trust and external items**

11. **Any Other Business** - The National AGM will be held on 18 September and it is likely that Alex will be up for election.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 12.20.