

Aughton & Ormskirk U3A
Minutes of Executive Committee meeting held on Tuesday 13 May 2008 in HQ

Chairman: Ted Morrell
Present: Beth Blamires, David Blanchflower, Beryl Campbell, Chris Jones, Pat McKenzie, Alex McMinn, Norman Platt, Chris Procter, Jeff Roberts, Susan Watkinson, Norman Williamson, Alan Worthington
Apologies: Carole Gray, Jim Robson and Bob Roscoe
Welcome The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting with special mention of the new members and Ann Haskell.

1. Election of Officers: It was proposed, seconded and unanimously AGREED that the following members hold office for the ensuing year to May 2009:

Chairman	Ted Morrell
Vice-Chairman	Jeff Roberts
Hon. Treasurer	Chris Jones
Hon. Secretary	Sue Watkinson
Membership Secretary	Pat McKenzie
Newsletter Editors	Alan Worthington and Sue Watkinson

It was then proposed, seconded and unanimously AGREED that Ann Haskell be co-opted to the Executive Committee for the year to May 2009

2. Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2008 were approved. (These will now be distributed to the Trustees and members of Committees.)

3. Matters arising from the Minutes

- a) Jeff has dealt with the issue of paid member tutors, who will each make a decision on their future membership. It appears, from the newsletter entries, that French, Tai Chi and Spanish will continue to be taught but the Spanish Conversation has yet to be resolved. Ted wondered whether U3A insurance would apply if a tutor held membership of another U3A.

4. Alex McMinn – items brought forward

Alex asked for promotion of the June monthly meeting “Stay Safe Theatre”. Also that the contents of his blue paper, presented at the AGM, should not appear either on the website or in the newsletter. In giving advance apologies for the June Executive he mentioned several initiatives in which he is involved:

- a) LCC and the Extra Care Development Funding scheme where there is an opportunity and willingness for U3A to become involved.
- b) Older Person’s Health Profile – a joint project between WLDC, PCT and University College, London with Alex as the Project Director

5. Annual General Meeting

135 members had attended and the meeting served its purpose. The question from Alan Starkie was considered: “That the name University of the Third Age is off-putting and elitist”. A brief discussion ensued and views of Edge Hill University and the Third Age Trust were mentioned, also that it would be possible to market our U3A under another name. No decision was taken.

AGREED that we must try to attract more members - Jeff proposed a more friendly venue, Alex and Ann suggested written reports and Beth said the ideal communication of AGM minutes was to send them to all members with a copy of the Constitution, perhaps in the newsletter. No decision was taken and it was AGREED that the format of the AGM is reconsidered in December. There seemed to be little interest in a speaker in addition to the formal business.

Minutes were almost complete and would be circulated to all members of this Executive before the June meeting.

6. 5th birthday celebrations

Notes of the Working Party meeting had been circulated and were noted. Coach allocation for the Mersey Ferry cruise would be confirmed by Thursday.

7. Trustee Report

Beth queried the status of U3A in the light of Charity Commissioners new categories and asked about the role of Trustees vis a vis the Executive. She will prepare a paper for Chairman, Secretary, Chair of Trustees and Norman P, then to the Executive (July meeting). CONFIRMED that Trustees should be invited to attend all Executive meetings.

8. Membership

1274 members have now renewed with 471 outstanding (reminder in June-August newsletter). There have been 21 new members and the next number to be issued is 2133. Pat noted some anomalies in renewal, eg. Where one of a couple has renewed. During mid June she will send a reminder letter to those still outstanding.

Some concern was expressed about those attending the larger Groups and whether their membership status was checked. AGREED that an audit must be carried out once the 30 June has passed with a note to Group Leaders. In response to a question, Jeff said that the claim for Gift Aid was only from those who have renewed. Sue suggested that Membership could be given via a Gift Voucher. This was referred to the Publicity Committee. Ted left the meeting at this point and Jeff Roberts took over the Chair.

9. Treasurer’s Report

Jeff had no further figures to present as the up to date draft accounts had been available at the AGM. The Groups Account was now active, An accounts package was being discussed and the first of the Group Cash Books had been issues. The “insert”, giving reasons for use and instructions on completion of the Cash Book had not been completed or

discussed at the Groups Support Committee. AGREED that the new Treasurer must be content with the wording. Thanks were given to Jeff for his sterling work in holding the post of Treasurer for the full five years.

10. Sub Committee Reports

a) Finance – Nothing to report

b) Social –

(I) Events – Christmas Lunch at the Adelphi – a contract had already been issued but the minimum number had been reduced to 200 at a price per head of £18.00. It was AGREED that the ticket price will be £18.50 and a good raffle will meet any additional expenses.

(II) Welfare issues – Chris Procter agreed to be the Executive Link person with the Welfare group. Bereavement Counselling preliminary training was not accepted as necessary, just the passing of information about the West Lancashire service. Jeff agreed to speak to Dorothy Harrison about enlarging her group and its remit.

(III) Horizons – Coffee rota is working well. Tables and layout seem to be in some confusion. Stan Marsters now has sufficient names for an extra rota. Suggested that there is a “putting away” rota as the teams do not stay for the morning to undertake this task. Duty Managers could mention that help is needed at the end of the morning. Notices should be given firstly to the Information team and then to Willem Wiechers for entry onto the web site.

c) Groups Support – No meeting. The “round robin” emails are going out to Group Leaders but not as a regular Bulletin. “Shared Learning Project” will be launched in the newsletter with an exploratory meeting on 14 June. Topic will be “Local Worthies and their influence on the local scene” with willing members divided into small groups to undertake research. There is money available from TAT HQ for printing. Suggest contact made with Local/Oral History and Mona Duggan.

d) Publicity – Minutes of the meeting held 1 April had now been circulated. Stan Bryan had agreed to resume the Chair of this Committee – suggested that he might consider becoming a co-opted member of the Executive. A request for Publicity to manage the newsletter within the annual budget was AGREED. Questions were asked about U3A News being sent direct to members and Sue explained that the cost of £1.50 per member had been notified AFTER the 2008-09 subscription level had been set. We would have to give TAT all our membership details. AGREED that we discuss this again in December/January and that Publicity considers the question and makes a recommendation.

e) Travel – A meeting had been held yesterday. Norman W reported verbally – there are 31 for Killarney, 21 for Bruges. For 2009 there will be two holidays only (due largely to the Groups holidays – Gardening, Art Appreciation and Walking) one by coach to the near Continent and one by air to a further destination. Concern that an Upholland holiday was advertised at Horizons and confirmation given that approaches must be made in the first instance to the Group Leader concerned or the Travel Committee. Norman W will clarify with Discovery Travel. Jeff suggested that a Lancashire Link Travel initiative may help to fill spaces. The newly formed “Holiday Group” will meet on 9 June with Colin Gray in charge.

11. Special Projects

a) External Relations b) Sustainable Development c) E-learning and Internet – reference was made to the blue paper prepared by Alex for the AGM (See also item 4)

d) Cultural Exchanges – further discussion deferred until July

12. Lancashire Link – Minutes of recent meetings had been circulated. Queried whether Peter McCormack is still our representative. Next meeting of Lancashire Link is 4 June.

13. Third Age Trust (TAT) and external items

a) National Office Circulars – nothing had been received this month

b) Meeting of very large U3As in London – Ted had been invited to attend and had circulated a paper inviting responses by email. He will report back to the July meeting.

14. Any other business

a) Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (via TAT) had requested responses to a survey about informal adult learning. Beth and Sue, with much advice from Marjorie Bryan, had invited a number of Group Leaders to attend a morning meeting to discuss the papers. Responses were currently being drafted and would form the basis, not only of the formal response, but also of further discussions about the future development of our own U3A.

b) Beth volunteered contact with Edge Hill to aid both External Relations and the Shared Learning Project.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 1155.

Next meeting Tuesday 10 June at 0945

(Apologies received in advance from Beth Blamires, Pat McKenzie, Alex McMinn, Norman Platt and Sue Watkinson)