

POCKLINGTON & DISTRICT U3A

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

Apologies - Treasurer and Brian James.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting held on 17th November 2015

With the following correction, the minutes were approved as a correct record of that meeting, proposer David Bragg, seconder Eileen Ducker.

Correction: Speaker for A.G.M. - Change second sentence to read "The President and had reservations about the booking"

Vice Chair's Update

Serendipity

The Vice-Chair said that the first event (to Beverley) arranged by the new member who hoped to run a Serendipity group had gone well. Both the Past Chair and the President expressed some concern about possible clashes of topics with other groups and that care should be taken to ensure that each new group leader was fully aware of the principles of U3A. The Vice-Chair responded that it was essential not to discourage new members' enthusiasm and the Secretary added that it was inevitable that duplication of groups would occur as the membership grew and the number of groups increased accordingly. Eileen Ducker said that it was very important to establish good communication with existing Group Leaders as new groups are proposed and developed.

The Vice-Chair added that the person aiming to set up the Serendipity group had suggested that he would not be a Group Leader but would facilitate other people to lead using their ideas. The Committee had grave concerns about this approach because of the responsibilities related to leading a group and there was discussion on whether the term "leader" was off-putting compared to "co-ordinator". The Secretary suggested that, in order to manage the establishment of groups, the practice of holding induction sessions for new Group Leaders, before they actually start running a group, should be maintained. This would ensure that new Group Leaders were made fully cognizant of all aspects of U3A and the responsibilities of running a group.

Action: Chair and Vice-Chair to set up induction session for leader of Serendipity and explain that it could be run as an Open Group with the Group Leader acting as administrator.

The Vice-Chair continued:

Digital Photography - starting in January and has 11 members showing interest.

Muddy Boots - Loraine Barwick and Val Wosket picking up the leadership of this group.

Garden Group - it was agreed that this group would close if no-one came forward to take on the Group Leader role.

Canasta 1 - Group Leader is not able to continue so group is likely to close.

Action:

- 1. Vice-Chair to liaise with Muddy Boots to clarify who is to be Group Leader and to talk with Leader of Canasta 1.**
- 2. David Bragg to talk to Garden Group about it closing unless a volunteer Leader is found.**
- 3. Vice-Chair to put the title of "Group Leader" v. "Group Co-ordinator" on agenda for Group Leaders' meeting in March.**

Treasurer's Update

The Treasurer had sent word that the bank balance was almost the same as at the last Committee meeting and the Secretary added that there are now 818 members.

Extraordinary General Meeting

The Secretary confirmed that she now had secured the Methodist Church, being the normal venue for A.G.M.s, and the speaker, Susan Hickson-Marsay. The timetable would be to hold the E.G.M. at 2.00 p.m., immediately followed by the speaker (at around 2.15 p.m.) and then serve tea/coffee in the Foyer afterwards, finishing by about 3.45.

Website

Ian Smith and the Chair talked through the three quotations received. Eileen Ducker proposed that the working group now meet and produce a full recommendation for the Committee to consider. The President raised the

question of whether the website provider would expect the site to host advertisements and it was agreed the website developed should be ad-free.

Action: Chair to convene working group to decide on which quotation to recommend to the Committee.

Group Leaders' Meeting

The new date for this was agreed as Thursday 17th March 2016 and it was agreed that the aim of the meeting was to encourage each Group Leader to bring other members with them who may become future Group Leaders.

Action: Secretary to book Burnby Hall from 9.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Open Meetings

The Secretary advised the meeting that she had asked Graham Gillyon to compile a list of past and potential speakers. Graham Gillyon said that he was trying to identify local people who, at a reasonable cost, might be interesting speakers. The Chair thanked Graham Gillyon for taking on this task.

Action: Graham Gillyon to email his list to Committee prior to next Committee meeting when it would be an agenda item.

Forward Planning

Suggestions for using funds:

- More open meetings with the associated cost of speakers and venue;
- New Website - £2,000-3,000 anticipated plus annual maintenance;
- Visualiser - suggested by the President as it would enable groups to put book/magazine articles up on screen without copying, can also be used for 3D items such as plants etc. (Secretary to investigate);
- Special meeting to encourage members to consider becoming a group leader (after GLs meeting in March).

YAHR Summer Showcase Event

The benefits of this event were further discussed and several Committee members felt that it could be a way to become more outward-looking.

Action:

- 1. Chair to email Group Leaders to ascertain what interest they might have in attending.**
- 2. Secretary to email YAHR representative to advise that we were delaying a decision on £200 contribution pending the response from our Group Leaders.**

Any Other Business

Institute for Advanced Motorists

The President reported that the Secretary of the York Branch of the Institute for Advance Motorists was willing to run free events in the Spring where our members can be assessed on their driving in a 50 minute session. The Committee were very much in favour of this idea and suggested holding an open meeting prior to the assessment sessions to allow members to sign up.

Action: President to ascertain if a speaker could address an open meeting prior to offering assessment sessions.

New Members

The Secretary read out the dates for New Members' meetings in the first half of 2016.

2016-17 Renewals

The Secretary asked if the Membership Secretary could be invited to attend the next Committee meeting in order to go through the renewals process for 2016-17 membership. This was agreed.

Approaches from External Organisations

The President remarked that there seem to be increasing numbers of emails from external organisations promoting their products and asked the Secretary to filter these carefully.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 19th January 2016 at 10.15 a.m. – **at The Station Hotel, Pocklington**

The meeting closed at 11.51 a.m.