

POCKLINGTON & DISTRICT U3A

SUMMARY OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING

held on Tuesday 14th October 2014 at 10.15 a.m.

1. **New Committee Members**

The Chair welcomed two new Committee Members, Terry Rogers and Ian Snape, who had been voted onto the Committee by email voting in September, in order to fill the current vacancies.

2. **Apologies** had been received from Bev Austin and David Jamieson.

3. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th August 2014 were unanimously approved.

4. **Matters arising** – taken on main agenda.

5. **Treasurer's Update**

The Treasurer reported that the accounts stood at £12,765.48 of which £1,365.00 was in group funds and that she had received 20 new subscriptions since the last Committee meeting.

6. **Vice-Chair's Update**

6.1 **New Groups and Group Leaders**

- Three new volunteers had come forward to run groups: Mervyn Buckingham - Family History; Joyce Buckingham – Computer Workshops; Vic Shadforth – Beginners' German.
- Group Leader change: Val Wosket taking on Croquet; Mike Tunnicliffe taking on Golf.
- The first Ballroom Dancing session had run very successfully except that the hall was rather too small.
- The group leader for Yorkshire History was quite ill and likely to be out of action for a couple of months. It was understood that there were people within the group who would undertake co-ordinating the currently planned trips but this highlighted the issues that arose when a group of this magnitude relied on just one member as group leader, rather than a consortium of members to run a group.

6.2 **Committee Responsibilities for Groups**

Terry Rogers to become responsible for the Study, Languages & Games section and Ian Snape for the Outdoor Pursuits & Physical Activities section.

6.4 **Group Leaders' Meeting - 16th October 2014**

The Vice-Chair outlined the structure of the meeting with small discussion groups followed by an open forum for feedback.

7. **Secretary's Update**

7.1 **Membership Operations**

The reconvened Membership Operations Working Party had found that the system was working very well, and actions resulting from the Working Group meeting further tightened up on the processes. There was one major concern, in that only one member, Brian Snelson, was known to have the expertise to undertake technical structuring and maintenance of the database and the Committee agreed that they should urgently address this issue by circulating an email seeking such expertise from within the membership.

7.2 **Proposed Revision of Application Form**

Minor changes to the Membership Application form were approved.

7.3 Membership Stats - at the 26th September there were 767 paid-up members of which 129 were new members for the 2014-15 year.

7.4 **YAHR Workshops** – flyer circulated

7.5 **Secretary's Role in 2015-16**

The Secretary advised the Committee that she had not intended to stand for election as Secretary for a third year but, given the fluidity of the Committee during 2014-15, she would be prepared to continue if

some assistance was available. She pointed out that, unlike the role of Chair, there was no succession planning for the role of Secretary and asked the Committee to consider two possible options for 2015-16:

- To identify a replacement Secretary
- The current Secretary to stand for re-election for one further year and a new Committee Member be identified who would take on the role of Secretary from 2016.

Some discussion ensued on this and both the Chair and the Vice-Chair felt that the proposal for a 'Secretary in waiting' could work well for the continuity of the organisation.

The Chair put to the vote the proposals for sending out circulars for a Secretary Designate and an Assistant Database Manager – both were approved unanimously.

Action: Secretary to draw up skills list for Secretary role and text for a circular for database support.

8. Groups using Paid Tutors

The issue of using paid tutors had become the subject of discussion nationally and statements in the recent issue of Third Age Matters has caused considerable unrest with some members. The previous Committee had agreed to have paid tutors for certain activities and the Chair stated she felt very strongly that the removal of paid tutors/speakers would tear our U3A apart and probably destroy it. There were known to be many U3As who paid tutors. A long discussion ensued about which groups should/should not use a paid tutor, about the risk of enhancing private businesses and the difficulties of running physical activities without suitable support skills.

The Chair then asked the Committee to vote on the following proposition:

That Pocklington & District U3A continue to use tutors as they are now until such time as the position becomes clearer. This was agreed unanimously.

9. Report on liaison with Woodland Trust

The President tabled a paper outlining the outcome of her discussions with the Woodland Trust and requested that the Committee approve the setting up of a sub-committee and set a budget for the project. She advised that bird/bat boxes did not fall with the Woodland Trust remit. The Chair felt that the provision of these should still be carried forward with the involvement of schools as it was a contribution to education, an important function of U3As.

It was agreed that, as the cost of the tree whips would be around £600-700, the total for the project should be £1,000.

The Chair proposed that the President convene a sub-committee comprising Ian Snape, Brian James, Cathy Doran (Garden Group) and Frank Challoner (Walking) and that they be given a budget of £1,000 to cover the whole project of trees and boxes. This was agreed unanimously.

Action:

1. President and Ian Snape to draft a statement informing members of the Committee's decision and asking for their input and support.
2. President to convene sub-committee.
3. President to approach the Woodland Trust to give a talk at the A.G.M.
4. Brian James to approach the R.S.P.B. to give a talk at the A.G.M.

10. Possible Co-option to Committee

The Chair advised the Committee that Frank Challoner had accepted the offer of being co-opted to the Committee to assist with the Woodland Trust project and asked for the Committee to approve this. It was agreed unanimously.

11. Any Other Business

11.1 Tables at Community Centre, Burnby Hall

The Chair had written to East Riding Council stating that the small tables were in a state of disrepair.

11.2 Christmas Concert

Group leaders of Singing for Pleasure and Enjoying Literature were liaising to hold a Sing-along on 10th December.

12. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 2nd December 2014 at 10.15 a.m. at the Station Hotel, Pocklington.

The meeting closed at 12.17 p.m.