

**Pocklington & District U3A
Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 20 January 2021, 10.30 a.m.
Online meeting via Zoom**

Present: Graham Ball (Chair)
Ron Tinkler (Secretary)
David Hebden (Treasurer)
Moira Laverack (Membership Secretary)
Liz Dearsly
Paul Giles
Rosemary Hutchinson
Rosemary Waugh
Steve Fraser (President)

1. Introduction/Welcome

GB welcomed members and opened the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Chris Mills, John Senior, David Stone, and Elizabeth Walker

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 16/12/20 were read. DH reported that the balances at the time had been:

Current account £5010

Subscription account £3485

With this addendum the minutes were accepted as a true record. This was proposed by LD and seconded by RH.

3. Matters arising

It was noted that the TAT capitation fee will remain at its present level until 2022/3

4. Treasurer's Update (DH)

There was little financial activity to report.

- a. Stripe have initiated an additional authentication procedure for people making payments. DH will consult WDY on this, as it is possibly not of relevance to P&D.
- b. ML reported that one new member had paid and this had apparently gone through without problems.
- c. Contact with WDY will ascertain whether this new procedure would be suspended by joining Beacon.

5. Membership Secretary's Update (ML)

- a. Current membership stands at 682. There have sadly been a further three recent deaths of active members. One member has rejoined after a 2 year absence, one new member has joined for the remainder of this year and for 2021/22 and one more is about to join.
- b. The subscription to the print magazine has been reduced by 163 copies.
- c. The postal costs have been reduced by about £20, largely due to ML undertaking a 'delivery round'.
- d. The update on fees sent out by GB on January 7th had been well received, with many members feeling that the £2 "loyalty rebate" was a nice gesture. The annual subscription reminder to all members had been prepared and agreed with GB and RT, and would be sent out shortly. ML will review and issue "On Line and Hard Copy" during the first week in February referencing items as per below e & f
- e. The system for online renewals cannot accommodate two different amounts, so payments will have to be made either through BACS or by cash or cheques delivered directly. It is anticipated that some members, particularly those who pay by standing order, may overpay by the £2. It was proposed and agreed that in such cases, or any instances where the member wanted to pay the full amount, with the members' agreement, the £2 should be accepted as a donation to P&D funds.
- f. There was some discussion as to whether a second address in Pocklington should also be used as a "paying-in point"; no formal arrangement was decided. ML will review.
- g. Card issue was not anticipated to be a problem, especially if members were encouraged to provide a SAE if paying in person.
- h. On Beacon, there was little to report. Brian Snelson has submitted the Statement of Intent, and RT as a committee member was dealing with all communications. The sub-committee was scheduled to meet again at the end of February.

6. Secretary Update (RLT)

- a. Insurance for the P&D is remaining with Gallagher, covering public liability, copyright and public screening right issues. The excess on accidental damage to equipment used in private homes has risen from £150 to £250. There has also been a recategorization of some items from 'property' to 'mobile equipment'.
- b. Information has been received that u3a Day is to be held on Wednesday June 2nd, and that a series of workshops and training sessions for this will be held online next week. This is not something in which P&D has previously participated, and after some discussion it was agreed that
 - i. Planning any event for early June is probably unrealistic in the present circumstances.

- ii. We should better direct our efforts to keeping and caring for our present membership and encouraging lapsed members to rejoin.
 - iii. A National Day seems an otiose exercise, and not something we shall actively promote. Not a real priority for P&D. Committee members were instead invited to come up with ideas for raising and keeping local interest.
- c. There will be a new version of the Welcome letter which will take the current situation into account. There was a suggestion that when physical meetings restart, it might be advisable and desirable to hold more frequent 'drop-ins', both for social reasons and practical ones such as reducing congestion at the membership desk. This was acclaimed as a good idea.
 - d. The issue of re-welcoming the members (about 200) who let their membership lapse last year needs to be addressed. ML has all the contact details, and a personalised letter will be prepared inviting them to re-join.
 - e. Death of members. Over the last months, during which there have been at least 20 deaths of active members, the practice of notifying GLs of these has been suspended, largely due to fear of giving offence by inadvertently missing someone out. The Committee agreed that carrying on this practice was appropriate for the times.
A propos of this discussion, a question was raised about P&D being invited to make donations to charities, as sometimes happens when a notification of death is sent. It was agreed that this is not only constitutionally unpermissible but not a precedent we should establish. However, an individual Group to which the member belonged might choose to send a private donation to the specified charity.

7. AOB

- a. It was suggested by RT that the current rota for preparing the fortnightly newsletter be abandoned after those which are currently in process, and that instead individual Groups might enjoy writing releases which could showcase works produced by members of the Group, or publicise any activity they have been undertaking over the last months. The suggestion was enthusiastically accepted, and Group leaders will be contacted and invited to make submissions.
- b. Astronomy laptop. David Hobson, leader of the Astronomy Group, had notified the Secretary that they were no longer using their laptop, which was ten years old. Could the group donate it to Fangfoss School, which has received members' old laptops gratefully in the past?
PG pointed out that there are several more unused laptops on the Asset Register, which could also perhaps be of use to schools during the COVID closure. After some discussion RT undertook to discuss the removal of personal data from computers with Brian Snelson, and to contact ERYC who operate a programme for 'cleaning' computer drives so that they can be reused in schools.

- c. AGM. GB raised the timing of the P&D AGM, which was scheduled for May. Constitutionally it must be held before December 31st, and needs a 5% attendance of membership to be quorate. As previously discussed, there would need to be an extraordinary meeting of the P&D to agree for the AGM to be held through an online platform. It was unanimously agreed that we would defer the setting of a date until later in the spring/summer, in the hope of being able to hold a physical rather than a Zoom meeting. More precise planning for the next months is not a realistic exercise.

There being no further business raised, the meeting closed at 11.32a.m.

- 8. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 17 February, at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom