

**Pocklington & District U3A
Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday 17 March 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
John Senior
Rosemary Waugh
Steve Fraser (President)

1. Introduction/Welcome

GB welcomed members and opened the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from Chris Mills and Elizabeth Walker

2. Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 17/02/21 were read, and were accepted as a true record. This was proposed by DH and seconded by JS.

3. Matters arising

- a. GB had attended an "Ask The Chairman" session at which the magazine TAM had been discussed. TAM currently costs £2.50 p.a. but will rise to £3.10 next year. There are suggestions that it may move to a digital format; however, as the publishing costs are currently covered by advertising revenue, there is concern that online advertising might not be able to support the publication to the same level. It was pointed out that a hard-copy option will remain desirable for many readers. ML informed the Committee that an opt-out option will come in once we are on Beacon; in the meantime it was suggested that members might like to consider sharing and passing on copies, or perhaps having a pile of copies to be picked up at drop-ins rather than mailed to individuals. It was decided to raise the issue in a Members' Update circular, for comment from membership.
- b. ML has produced a document on Recruitment and Retention, which had been circulated to all members before the meeting.
- c. Further to the discussion of the next Chair, the two nominated people had been approached, one person did not feel able to take on the commitment, but the other has agreed to step in. The Committee agreed that Brian James should be co-opted to membership as soon as possible, with the expectation of becoming

Chair at the end of GB's tenure. It was agreed that this was a satisfactory and constitutionally acceptable outcome to the situation.

- d. LD raised the issue of welcoming new members, in the present situation and at drop-ins once they resume. It was agreed that this would be on the agenda for discussion at our next meeting.

4. Treasurer's Update (DH)

- a. The Treasurer's Report is attached to these minutes. While the current situation is not unhealthy, the membership fee for 2022/23 will need careful consideration.
- b. ML reported that the Membership Account was standing at £4565.02, with about £300 having been recently banked. £4344 of this amount is included in the Treasurer's Report.

5. Membership Secretary's update (ML)

- a. Current membership stands at 685, with 7 new members. The question of welcoming new members, perhaps with a Zoom meeting, was raised again, and will be discussed with LD.
- b. The Recruitment and Retention report, as mentioned earlier, had been sent out in advance of the Committee meeting.
- c. It is hoped that the planned relaxation of Covid regulations on March 29th, permitting 'rule of six' meetings, may help some groups to restart activities at some level; if the further relaxation on April 12th allowing community centre meetings goes to plan, it will be still better. Burnby Hall anticipates being available from early July, but it is recognised that reconnection as a community will be gradual, both because of government regulation and understandable personal caution which many will feel.
- d. P&D u3a needs to have a higher profile in the community if we are to relaunch successfully after Covid. It was suggested that we consider:
 - 1. Local Press
 - 2. Radius
 - 3. Holding recruitment meetings in outlying villages
 - 4. Using social media.

A modest cost for any such activities can be supported. There are constitutionally no geographical limitations on our membership catchment. This will be discussed more fully at a future meeting.

- e. Beacon 'Our Beacon Journey has begun' – the membership data has been received. Brian Snelson is to continue as P&D administrator, and is seeking to recruit a technically-adept backup person for the role. The transfer is due to go live in August; however, April will continue to be the start of the year both financially and for membership. Details of members and groups are being prepared for entry to the system, but not financial details as yet. ML is handling this process.

A data sheet has been given to BS; all is ongoing apparently smoothly. There will be a trial stage and the sub-committee will meet again in May, or possibly sooner if required. We start paying for the service one month after it goes live, so this should be September.

6. Secretary's update (RT)

- a. Fortnightly Members Update Communication. RT has used the group information which has been submitted, and is now seeking material for the next issue. Committee members were invited to send any contributions to him. A reminder that renewal of membership is due will be included in the next issue, with details of payment methods. It was suggested that a personal approach to Group Leaders, offering help with ideas if they are not sure what to say, might elicit further updates on Group activity.
- b. Some 20/21 lapsed members have rejoined; others will be contacted in April. If life is on a more normal pattern by later in the summer, so that a more active programme is running, that might be a good time to make personal contact with former members who may not have rejoined by that time.
- c. RT notified the Committee that he will have very limited time available for P&D business for two weeks from March 29th, as he has been called for jury duty.

7. AOB

- a. Adobe Flash Player (JS)

There is no plug-and-play replacement programme available to replace the Adobe Flash Player. A system software manager should manage this issue without charging; however, WDY have asked for £400. As the Adobe Flash is only rarely used, it was agreed that this was poor value. There will be access to a system with Beacon 2 in 2022. It was agreed to take no action at present.
- b. YAHR Seminar with TAT Chair (GB)

GB reported that some u3a branches had suspended operation completely during 2020/21. There had been an average decline in membership of about 20% and some branches may not reopen. It was felt that P&D had taken the right decision.
- c. Preparing For Funerals Email (RLT)

Following the e-mail from the GL of the Preparing for Funerals group, RLT had made contact with the GL and the situation had been amicably resolved. The Group no longer appears in the list of groups in the handbook, as it was no longer active following the completion of its document, but a link to this document was given on the website. The document is felt to be useful, but of restricted interest.
- d. AGM (RLT)

The date and style of the AGM have not yet been decided, pending the development of relaxation in Covid rules. The option of a combined live and virtual but interactive meeting is being pursued in consultation with Brian Snelson. GB reported that the Methodist Church has installed a new audio-visual

system which could permit live streaming. It was unanimously agreed to delay the date until the end of June/early July. An Examiner of Accounts will need to be appointed, as the previous appointee, Gerry Hutchinson, is no longer eligible as a relation of a Committee member.

- e. Membership fee 2022/23 will need to be on the agenda for the next meeting. DH will prepare a document.
- f. DH suggested that the P&D could run a Facebook page in the Pocklington community pages. An appeal will be included in the News Update to ask whether any member would be interested in setting this up.
- g. The question was raised as to whether follow-up contact should be made with all the locations used for Group meetings. It was agreed that it was still too early for this. We need to be clear about exactly what is on offer. A Drop-in session for GLs, before the regular Burnby Hall sessions restart, would be a good idea, so that an audit of activities and a clear picture can be set out. The Handbook, which was not issued during the last year, will need a thorough update and edit before it can be re-issued.

There being no further business raised, the meeting closed at 12.12.

8. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, 21st April, at 10.30 a.m. on Zoom.