

Minutes of Pocklington and District u3a Committee Meeting

Tuesday 21 September 2021, 10.30 a.m.

Pocklington Scout Hut, Burnby Lane

Present: Brian James (Chair)
Ron Tinkler (Secretary)
Neil Barrett
Jane Cole
Liz Dearsly
Rosemary Hutchinson
Hazel MacDonald
Chris Mills
Pauline Slater
Elizabeth Walker
Rosemary Waugh

1. Apologies for absence had been received from ML and DH
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as a true record, proposed by CM and seconded by RH.
3. There were no matters arising which did not appear as agenda.
4. Treasurer's Update.
In DH's absence, this had been circulated beforehand and is attached. Committee members were asked
 - a) To consider the purchase of a 'burner' phone, to overcome the problems using the card reader at Burnby Hall.
 - b) To visit the link about ways to bank, contained in the report, and send any comments to DH.
5. Membership Secretary's Update.
In ML's absence, she had sent word that
 - a) Beacon is going well; there are some minor glitches but Brian Snelson is working to overcome these.
 - b) Membership is currently standing at 695 members.
 - c) A second New Members' Meeting had been held on 23 August, attended by seven members, who had all given a very positive response. A third such meeting has been arranged Thursday 21 October at 3.30. Committee members were invited to run and/or attend the meeting. EW expressed willingness to run the event. Anyone wishing to assist should notify ML by next Monday, 27 September.
6. Secretary's update (RT)
 - a) Drop-ins. The first 'revived' Drop-in was felt to have been a success – eighty members attended, including some new joiners, and many positive comments were received. Points arising from the event were discussed, as follows:
 - a. Members need to be reminded firmly that wearing masks unless sitting down is a condition of the hire of the hall.

- b. The start time is 10 a.m. and members should not come in before then. (RT will emphasise both of these points in a message to all members.)
 - c. More presence is needed in welcoming new members and on the New Members' desk. In particular, a second person needs to be trained in dealing with the Renewals system.
 - d. Having no Group Leaders' tables was agreed to have given a more relaxed atmosphere. It was agreed that, with the exception of the Travel Group table where cash is handled, this system would continue.
 - e. There are continuing problems with the PA system, which no longer appears to be storing battery power sufficiently or communicating with the microphone. It was suggested that the system should be taken to the Repair Café on October 2nd: failing this, the purchase of a new system may need to be considered.
 - f. A general Group Information Table, as discussed at our last meeting, was agreed to be very desirable, and will be set up for future meetings. This will be immediately to the left of the Reception table, and staffed during the morning by a rota of committee members who can give information about specific groups and details of contacts and availability.
 - g. It was agreed, in response to a query from the Catering team, that a return to 'open biscuits' instead of individually-wrapped packs, would be desirable.
- b) Cluster contacts. The list of Groups under the aegis of each Committee member had been circulated, and members were asked to contact the Leaders on their lists and give contact details as a first line of communication with the Committee if this was necessary. It was emphasized that the role is reactive only, as a safety mechanism if problems or safeguarding issues arose within a Group. Members were asked to request from the leader's details of venue, vacancies within each of their Groups, and of any needs that a Group had, before the next Committee meeting.

7. AOB

- a) Facebook. In the absence of JS, no update was discussed. It was agreed that when the page is fully open, it should offer links to the Website.
- b) Group Leaders' Meeting. It was agreed that November would be the best timing for this, and the second week seemed to offer the most opportunities. RW will contact the Community Hall and book a date, ideally Wednesday 10 November, then contact the LilyPad catering team to make arrangements.
- c) Venue contact will need to be made after this meeting.
- d) The new edition of the Handbook is almost ready, and should be available for the November Drop-In. The question of u3a diaries was raised, and it was agreed that these were not worth pursuing as interest was negligible.
- e) The proposed Research Project from the University of York was accepted as of potential interest to members, and will be put on the website.

8. Vote of Thanks

The Chair thanked RT for his outstanding service and contribution to the P&D u3a during his time as secretary, and presented him with a token of thanks and farewell, wishing him every happiness in his new life in Scotland. This was supported and endorsed by all.

9. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.46.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 19th, at 10.30 in the Scout Hut, Burnby Lane.