

**Pocklington & District U3A
Committee Meeting**

**Tuesday 21 June 2022, 10.30 a.m.
Pocklington Scout Hut, Burnby Lane**

Present: John Senior (Chair)

Neil Barrett (Vice Chair)

Graham Ball (President)

Chris Mills

David Hebden (Treasurer)

Elizabeth Walker

Gerry Hutchinson

Jane Cole

Lynn Liddle

Liz Storer

Moira Laverack (Membership Secretary)

Pauline Slater

Rosemary Waugh (Secretary)

1. Introduction/Welcome and Apologies for absence (JS)
 1. Apologies had been received from HM
 2. The new members of the Committee were welcomed by the Chair, and all the committee members briefly introduced themselves.
2. Approval of Notes of May 2022 meeting

The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by PS and seconded by NB.
3. Matters arising from Notes of previous meeting (JS)

The questions which had been raised over various groups were mostly seen to have been resolved, though it was noted that the Dog-Walking Group is in need of a new leader, and the French Beginners Group seems in doubt as the Group Leader has not renewed membership.
4. Chair's report (JS)
 1. Designation of responsibilities within the Committee

The role of the Link Co-ordinators was explained and discussed. It was agreed that the Co-ordinators could take a more active role, for instance by fielding enquiries at Drop-ins if the Group Leader is not present, and by making regular contact with the Leaders on their list. It was further agreed that

 - LL would take over the Music groups from RH
 - LS would take over the Social groups from LD
 - JC would take responsibility for the Outdoor groups, as HM is currently having health difficulties.
 2. Beacon/WDY way forward.

The comparison of the two IT packages, prepared by ML, was summarised. It was agreed that this report would be circulated to all Committee members. There was considerable discussion, summarised as follows:

- We are currently paying for two systems and must commit to one or the other before March when the subscription to Beacon expires. We should decide by the end of the third quarter.
- Beacon has not delivered the benefit it had seemed to promise, and Beacon 2 has been cancelled.
- WDY have been helpful and prompt with assistance when needed; Beacon are difficult to communicate with.
- WDY is a larger company now and have been very positive in recent meetings. They have a strong customer base, and DH will run a check on their financial security.
- The principal advantages of Beacon were
 - Being able to view the archive, and
 - Sending out mass emails to all the membership.

It now seems that WDY can offer these facilities.

It was agreed that ML and DH will arrange another meeting with WDY, to seek clear assurance that they can supply what the P&D needs, and what the costings for the service would be.

3. Organisation of Drop-ins

It was agreed that we would return to the pre-Covid arrangement of setting 'social' tables in the middle of the floor, and encourage more Group Leaders to attend, possibly with badges. All Committee members were reminded that they should attend if possible, with their badges.

4. JS will be attending an Accord chairs' meeting on June 27 and invited points to raise. It was agreed that he would sound out other u3as' opinions of their experience with Beacon, and would also initiate an exchange of Group lists with neighbouring u3as, for mutual benefit.
5. Further to the recent open days in Market Weighton and in Pocklington, JS has arranged a meeting with ERYC representatives on July 1st. ERYC may be able to offer support with loaning equipment, giving a grant, and/or offering services such as health checks for members.

5. Group activity (NB)

1. The leaders of the Archaeology Group are actively seeking replacement/s, and plan to step down in March 2023.
2. There is a new proposal for the resumption of the Philosophy Group.
3. The importance of Group Leaders establishing a clear succession path within their Groups was raised again. It was felt that it might encourage people to come forward if it is stressed that the Group Leader role in many cases needs a facilitator, not necessarily an expert. JS and NB had met and agreed that NB will take the lead and develop proposals for the best way forward. He will advise at further committee meetings.

6. Treasurer's update (DH)

The current balance of the main account is £2988.97, and that of the subscription account is £7927.67. The only outstanding invoices are for the hire of Burnby Hall and of the Methodist Church for the AGM.

7. Membership Secretary's update (ML)

1. The membership currently stands at 692. 111 memberships have lapsed, 20% of the lapsed membership was due to death or moving away from the area.

2. Following the item in the June update, many people have contacted ML with a request to opt out of the TAM magazine. Although the magazine is flagged as part of u3a membership benefits, the P&D gets billed for the postage. DH suggested that, as our subscriptions are lower than those most u3a branches, we could if necessary recoup the postage by a raise in the annual subscription fee. (There was considerable discussion about the magazine, under item 9)

8. Secretary's Report (RW)

1. Newsletters. The question was raised as to whether these were helpful and useful, and Committee members were invited to send ideas and contributions. The consensus was that the monthly updates were generally appreciated and should continue.

9. AOB

1. Review of Third Age Matters (CM)
CM reviewed the range of items in the content of the TAM magazine, and suggested that by publicising the activities of other branches, the magazine could offer members ideas both for new groups and for activities that existing groups might undertake, possibly in collaboration with other u3a branches. After considerable discussion, it was agreed that giving members the option of continuing to receive the TAM or not was the right thing to do. CM will prepare a suggestion of how P&D groups might be helped by the magazine or be able to contribute to it to publicise their activities, and this will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.
2. Standards of language in meetings (LL) As the meeting had by then been a long one, it was agreed to carry this item forward to the next meeting.

10. Date of next meeting Tuesday, 19 July 2022, 10.30am, at the Scout Hut, Burnby Lane. CM and RW both offered apologies in advance.

11. There being no further business raised, the meeting closed at 12.17.