

Christchurch u3a Committee Meeting
MINUTES
Tuesday 17 October 2023
Somerford ARC, Christchurch

Present: John Bell (JB) (Chair) Sue Fillery (SF), John Fairbairn (JF), Kathleen Smith (KS), Eileen Lancaster (EL), Paula Watton (PW), Judy Hall (JH), Elaine Trayler (ET), Rosemary McCulloch (RM), Ian Peterkin (IP)
Apologies: Jackie Sherman (JS),

<p>JB welcomed Ian Peterkin to the meeting. Ian has joined the Committee as Programme Co-ordinator.</p>	
<p>Minutes of meeting on 19 September 2023 were approved and seconded by Kathleen Smith</p>	
<p>Matters Arising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB had given a talk to Highcliffe Rotary about Christchurch u3a. • The noticeboard at the Epicentre has been installed. • Ron Watson is stepping down from Active News. Active News will now come under the remit of the Publicity Group with RM being responsible for its production. • RM's Christmas Lunch needs to be advertised in the next Active News. PW to check with Ron Watson when the next edition will be published. 	PW
<p>Chairman's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further to recent updates JB had nothing new to report. He is continuing to meet with people who have shown an interest in administrative roles. 	
<p>Treasurer's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KS reported the accounts have been audited and signed off by John Childs. John is resigning as Auditor. • The new system with the card reader is working well. Francesco has donated a mobile phone to be used with the card reader. • The replacement of the Epicentre windows is going ahead. 	
<p>Committee Members' Reports.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Venues</u>. JH reported Mudeford Wood Community Centre charged 5 weeks venue fees for cancellation of the Walking Football Group. The Group was cancelled due to lack of interest. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>New Members</u>. JF reminded everyone the new members meeting will be held on 25 November at Druitt Hall from 10.00-12.00. All committee members are welcome to attend and he hoped some group leaders would give a short talk about their respective Group. JF said 169 new members had joined since the last new members meeting in November 2022. • <u>Groups</u>. JS (in her absence) asked the committee to be reminded that the Group Leaders' meeting is on 28 October from 10.00-12.00 at St. Katherine's Church Parish Hall, Southbourne BH6 4AS. Assistance is needed to set up the room and look after early arrivals. JS hoped attending committee members will introduce themselves and say a few words about their role. 	
<p>AGM Preparation</p> <p>JB confirmed the following documentation needs to be posted on the website before the AGM on 13 November 2023:</p> <p>AGM Booklet Financial Control Policy Reserves Policy Constitution 2023 Policies and Procedures</p> <p>The Calling Notice has been issued. The AGM booklet containing the AGM Minutes 2022 and the audited Accounts will be available on the website and will be sent by post to members not on email.</p> <p>EL will provide the membership list to record attendance of members at the AGM. ET agreed to be responsible for refreshments.</p>	<p>EL ET</p>
<p>Reviewing AGM propositions from members</p> <p>No firm propositions had been received; however, three members had submitted questions along with suggestion for the committee to consider.</p> <p>A discussion took place regarding emails received by JB.</p> <p>INPUT 1</p> <p>One member queried the introduction of membership fees for group leaders and the disparity in fees for groups that incur a venue cost against those that do not. Regarding the disparity in</p>	

fees for groups with and without venues the issue had previously been raised at the 2021 AGM. The proposal to have a basic membership fee covering central activities with a top-up for subject group venue hire was rejected by the membership. It was agreed that the vote at the 2021 AGM still stood and that there was no merit in raising the topic again.

That said it was recognized that the Committee had initiated an activity to look at alternative operation models within the context of delivering value to our members and our own longer term operational needs. This work is ongoing and will set the framework for future discussions as and when the need arises.

It was agreed that JB would write to the member and advise the outcome of our discussion.

JB

INPUT 2

Another member criticized the running of the committee and some of its decisions. This email was a repeat of a previous series of email exchanges; however, it included several complex questions some of which had previously been addressed at some length. As the author had indicated that he would be unable to attend the AGM it was agreed that the questions would not be put forward to the membership as they could be dealt with before the meeting. It was agreed that JB would respond to the email prior to the AGM.

JB

INPUT 3

Another member has put forward the following questions.

Q1- Why was the approval to take away the concession for group leaders' free membership voted at the February 23rd committee meeting, without coming to the the full membership for review?

Q2 - If the year-end accounts show an improvement will the committee bring the issue of fees back to the members to decide.?

It was agreed that both questions were valid; however, the decision regarding group leader fees was driven by two key factors. The first was that following extensive research the committee had recognised that our current policy for group leader fees was totally out of line with the extant U3A Ethos. Based on

<p>the principle that the U3A is run by volunteers for the benefit of the community and that no individual should expect or receive a financial reward or benefit for their contribution regardless of role. The second factor was that given likely future financial pressures, coupled with the need to deliver value to all members, the financial burden of the long-term sustainability of the organisation must be equally shared by all members. Both factors had been communicated to the group leaders; however, individuals had tended to focus on the financial perspective.</p> <p>It was agreed that no specific proposal would be presented to the membership; however, JB would present the agreed Christchurch U3A Trustee position at the AGM.</p> <p>The same submission raised the topic of “recognition” for group leaders. It was agreed that given the earlier decision it was no longer appropriate to apply financial recognition. However, it was agreed that there was merit in doing some further work on how the U3A should recognize the contribution of all volunteers including: group leaders, committee members and all other members who willingly volunteer to support the organization without any financial inducement.</p>	JB
<p>Recruitment It was agreed JH, Venues Secretary, needs an assistant and Archie Hoggan, Technical Co-ordinator, requires a deputy.</p>	
<p>A.O.B. It was agreed KS will buy a handheld roaming microphone for use at meetings. IP suggested that new members should be contacted shortly after they join u3a to check all is going well. This was thought to be a good idea. JF agree to review</p>	KS JF
<p>Date of Next Meeting 21 November 2023 at 14.00 Somerford ARC, 20 Southey Road, Christchurch BH23 3EH</p>	