

HAVERHILL & DISTRICT U3A
Minutes of the 136th Committee Meeting
Held at 10.00am on Monday 21st March 2022

In the committee room at the Leiston Community Centre, Leiston Road, CB9 8JJ.

1.0 Present

Peter Tatam (Acting Chair); (Interest Groups Coordinator);
Barbara Lavender (General Secretary); (Membership Secretary)
Mark Pollington (Assistant Treasurer);
Steve Green (Assistant Membership Secretary)
Gerry Sexton (Publicity Manager);
Caroline Choat (Events Coordinator);
Fran Armes (Minute Taker);
Gloria Shersby (New committee member);
David Campos (New committee member);

Apologies

Dilwyn Roberts (Treasurer);
Wendy Foster (Speakers Secretary);

2.0 Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 21st February 2022)

The minutes were agreed by all and signed as a true copy by the Chair.

3.0 Matters arising not dealt with below.

- Update on Proposal to obtain the debit card see treasurer's report
- Peter will explain about asking groups to give a financial return on a regular basis (say six monthly in November and April) at the next group meeting in April. Peter
- Peter to send leaders the email address for contacting Gerry re website Peter
- In answer to Wendy's comments in the last meeting that there were a few groups that had folded recently, and could we find out if any members are still interested in the topic
 - The table tennis club lost their shared venue (and table) at Steeple Bumpstead so it is difficult for them to reform.
 - Gerry commented that the ipad group could no longer meet on a regular basis at the Fire station as regular meetings not allowed there now
 - Spanish conversation were looking for a leader

4.0 Final arrangements for the AGM to be held on 29th March in the Haverhill Arts centre

All the paperwork has been prepared as detailed before.

Barbara Cordina from Regional U3a has agreed to attend and take on the role of impartial member who takes over when the old committee has resigned and before the new committee is confirmed. There have been people proposed proposals for all posts.

The main committee are to sit at the front facing the audience, the rest wherever. When they are disbanded they sit in the audience and the new committee takes their place. Wendy has made arrangements for the speaker who is to talk on the NGS.

5.0 Treasurer's report

Mark had circulated the February report and the budget prior to the meeting. Note the £125 adjustment for PFP (Painting for Pleasure) and the £50 for trees that the Craft group made from selling xmas labels.

It was agreed at the previous meeting that Mark would apply for a debit card to use with our account, and which the Chair would hold. Mark had been into Lloyds and they had completed the application whilst he was in the branch, and is now waiting for an update on the application. Peter then made a reference to the problems that some charities were having with their banks, with some even refusing to open accounts for charities.

Barbara asked if we had renewed our membership of the community bus scheme. Mark thought not. She used the bus for group visits and wanted to use them again. The Community minibus subscription is £1 per mile but a minimum charge of £50. It was agreed that she would pay for us to join and reclaim the cost in the usual way.

6.0. Events Committee report

6.1 BBQ on 2nd July in Kedington Hall and the Meadow

Caroline summarised the events committee meeting which met on 14th March together with Aldine and Sandra.

Costs

Catering costs (£15 or £5 per head see below)

Entertainment costs around £500. see below

The hall £90

Two marquees @ £30, plus Dilwyn's at no cost

Teas and coffees throughout the time ~£50

Entertainment eg Steve's son's Quartet £100, Steve's daughter, Morris dancers of the order of £300-£500, Guitar Group (need PA system), Linton Jazz

Cost of printing tickets ~ £35

Catering costs alone

Michael Prentice has given costs of

£10.20 per person for a Hog roast – note there is no vegetarian or vegan option so a Hog Roast is not possible as it is not inclusive.

£12.90 per person for a BBQ with salads and relishes etc and vegan and vegetarian options and paper plates cutlery etc.

Total costs

The cost of a ticket for a BBQ would need to be £15 to cover food and the venue with a proportion of the entertainment costs the rest being subsidised by the HU3A including the grant given by the Haverhill Town Council.

Alternatively, we could have a bring your own picnic with the cost estimated at around £5 being for the venue and a proportion of the entertainment costs
So, the choice is of a cost of £15 for a BBQ and £5 for a bring your own – or ‘Picnic in the Meadow.’

Peter to ask the members which they would prefer given the current economic situation. Then Caroline can get back to Michael Prentice within 2 weeks as he is holding the date at the moment.

Peter / Caroline

Entertainment

Suggestions include Steve’s son’s Reunion Quartet £100, Steve’s daughter, Morris dancers of the order of £300-£500, Steel band, Guitar Group (need PA system), Linton Jazz, Singers for Pleasure group.

All to find out alternative entertainers. All

Raffle (but don’t organise prizes just yet)

Call it a Grand Draw and HU3A buy some presents totalling £200 – cost of £1 per ticket should cover.

Also ask local businesses for donations – Red Side up and Déjà vu –

Barbara

Gerry to ask go round industrial estate and ask for donations. Also ask members to contribute

Gerry

Volunteer help

Working groups are needed for refreshments, car park, setting up and clearing away and raffle.

Other considerations: see also events committee report for more detail

- Ask Mayor and Head of Town Council to come
- Ice cream van to be asked to come
- Time of event from 11 to 4 but volunteers need to be there before to set up chairs and tables etc. and after to clear
- Entertainment at intervals from 1 to 3pm
- Caroline has drafted a raffle ticket
- When selling tickets we need to find out who needs vegetarian or vegan options and mark their tickets to avoid others eating the vegetarian/vegan options
- Must have ticket in hand to get food
- Kedington holds 150/175 indoors - more if a marquee is used.
- What are Marquees like? Need for shade and shelter from rain and for bands etc.
- Get 150/175 tickets printed. Sell tickets at monthly meetings and by groups conveners. Pay online by BACs or cheque. End ticket sales in June to allow caterers leeway in getting ready if having caterers. First come first served for tickets.
- Parking on Field
- PA system see if Kedington have one need it for entertainment, welcome and raffle

Peter contacted Tony Farr during the meeting to arrange for the interested committee members to a meeting with Tony Farr at the site on 1st April.

6.2 Haverhill show

This is on 3rd July – so will not attend as too soon after BBQ

6.3 Xmas event

Enthusiasm is waning for a large Xmas event so we should encourage the Groups to organise their own event.

7.0 Speakers Corner

David Williams gave an excellent talk on the London Underground

This month's talk, after the AGM is Jenny Marks on the history of the National Garden Scheme (NGS) with an emphasis on the background of the NGS.

Wendy is arranging possible speakers for later in the year.

8.0 Groups report

The Calligraphy group have waited for COVID to subside before arranging a six-week course run by a lady from Thetford. 11 people have shown an interest. When the course finishes the trainees can train others.

Peter is sending out invitations to group leaders for a meeting on 29th April at 10am in the hall of West End Congregational Church, Haverhill.

Peter

9.0 Members' Report

Barbara reported that we have had 89 new members since July. They pay half price, adjust Beacon. 11 Do not have email – which is a greater percentage without email than than we had hoped.

10.0 Website

Gerry to set up website email address and will circulate. Need to advertise at April U3A meeting and Groups meeting on 29th April which Gerry will attend.

Gerry

11.0 AOB

All members of the new committee need to sign an eligibility declaration after AGM. Peter to make up form ready to sign immediately after the meeting.

Peter/All

Need new name badges for those changing role with new lanyards where necessary.

Rolling screen needs to pass over to new Chair.

Peter to hand over
power point to new chair

Steve to have an email within HU3A and Beacon.

12.0 Time and date of the next meeting

The next committee meeting will be at 10am on 25th April* in the Leiston Community Centre.

*Note: moved from 18th April to avoid the Easter week.