

Minutes of the Exeter U3A Committee Meeting

Held at 2pm, 4 November 2024

Held in the Wesley room at the Mint

Present for the meeting:

Committee members:

Terry Ancell (chair), Bill Cross (secretary), Rosie Hydar (treasurer), Ian Murray (Membership Secretary), Annabel Nater (Groups Coordinator), MJ Morgan, Anne Barwell (arrived at point 4), Mark Hall, Virginia Rosenfeld

1. Welcome

Terry welcomed the committee members and noted that the meeting was quorate.

2. Apologies

Rita Watson

Action:

Terry: to contact Rita re attendance

3. Declarations of interest

No interests were declared.

4. To resolve the minutes of 2 September 2024

Actions had been completed other than below. The minutes were approved.

Matters arising/Actions:

Terry: to sign the MIT License Agreement after Bill emails committee to ensure that everyone agrees with the agreement (point 8)

We didn't register for the proxy vote (point 9)

Bill: to send 2 September minutes to Bob Cottis for placing on the website

Ian: to arrange coffee morning for new members (point 10)

5. Regular Reports

Finance (Rosie): Rosie distributed her report at the meeting which raised no issues for decision. Rosie confirmed that the accounts match with the forecasted budget.

A discussion was had on the costs of hiring of courts for Pickleball. The committee agreed that, for the foreseeable future, £3.50 from November 18th would be required from each member for this particular activity. The rationale behind this was that, with average

attendance over the year, this fee would cover the majority of the cost of hire, therefore, would bring this activity roughly in line with the other u3a groups.

Action

Bill: to put on January agenda

Membership (*Ian*): Ian had distributed his report before the meeting which raised no issues for committee decision. Ian commented that there had been a significant number of new members joining in October (32).

Groups (*Annabel*): The groups report had been circulated before the meeting. The problem of poor sound quality at The Mint for the monthly meeting was raised and it was decided that the committee should investigate further on how to mitigate this.

Action:

Terry: to contact The Mint and discuss the feasibility of bluetooth and the use of headphones.

Speaker team (*Terry*): Terry commented that he has had discussions with the speaker team and it is apparent that this is not an easy role. The team were frequently approached by external potential speakers.

6. 30th Anniversary celebrations (Anne B)

Overall, it was felt that all the activities had gone well. The cream tea and evening do were well attended although there had been some negative feedback. A complaint was made of poor service for one table at the cream tea and the music being too loud at the evening do.

On the plus side the Mayor appeared to enjoy himself and was interested to learn about the u3a groups and activities, and he understood that these were important in helping to ensure that there are support networks for people in the local community. The Lord Lieutenant spent time talking to and listening to many people and stayed for longer than had been planned.

Financially, the overall costs were roughly £500 under the budgeted £3000 mainly due to not spending a large amount on a celebratory speaker.

It was agreed by the committee that a document detailing how the planning went, pitfalls, things to think about for a future event, etc should be created – a 'how it worked' file for future reference. To this end, Anne B's feedback on the event would be circulated to all committee members to allow others to add their thoughts/views. Anne B pointed out that the findings from this would be useful in organising the Open Days at St Stephen's.

Actions:

Anne B: to circulate her feedback via Bill to committee members [completed 5 November]

All: to add their opinions/feedback

Ann H: to edit and present to the committee for final approval

7. Feedback from the Group Convenors' workshop (Annabel)

The group convenors workshop feedback had been circulated to the committee. There was much to discuss about the findings of the workshop and the issue of the use of Beacon by convenors. Two of the main issues are how to manage over subscribed groups and how to encourage convenors to be more involved in their administrative roles. It was therefore decided that a December meeting specifically for this issue would be arranged.

Actions

Bill: to organise suitable date/venue in December

Terry: to attend the convenors workshop

8. Rights to use Beacon (Bill)

Bill had sent out a paper before the meeting regarding issues that Dave had raised concerning the management of emails sent via Beacon and possible GDPR failures. These issues had been highlighted by the 30th year celebrations.

It was agreed that access rights should be reviewed twice a year by the committee.

Action

Bill: to contact Dave to clarify who has what access rights.

Bill: to put on to January's agenda and to include in the December meeting regarding group convenors

9. Controlling email (Bill)

As discussed in point 8, the issue of too many emails going out to members was particularly highlighted by the organisation of the 30 year celebration activities. This issue to be included in the folder – 'How it worked'.

10. Consultation of drinks evenings (Bill)

Bill had received communication from the organiser of the evening drinks socials who was concerned that numbers were too low. Mark summarised the feedback from the consultation of the drinks evenings as not very popular but always enough people to make it worthwhile to run.

Action

Bill: to thank the convenor for her efforts and insights into the socials and the committee hopes that she will continue to organise them.

11. Access for external interests to the u3a membership (Bill)

It was unanimously agreed by the committee that we would not promote any external interests no matter how worthy.

12. Sight loss awareness training (Bill)

The committee had been circulated before the meeting with the email from the Guide Dogs Society on training for those supporting people with eye sight loss. It was agreed that, after further information, the committee could decide whether this might be useful for, say, the accessibility officer/convenors.

Action:

Bill: to contact Guide Dogs to find out more about costs if any/access to the on-line training

13. Committee input to newsletter

[didn't make any notes regarding this! Presumably Terry doing usual chair stuff?]

14. Any other business

MJ raised the point that we should be booking the supporters lunch now for next January/February.

It was noted that a date for the Christmas singing event had not been set.

Action

MJ : to contact venue for dates/prices

Terry: to confirm with The Mint and the choir for a suitable date in December for their Christmas performance.

Date of next meeting: 6th January 2025