

Huddersfield and District U3A Committee

Minutes of the Meeting on Thursday 23 January at 2.00pm at Aspin House

Present: Dallas Cliff (DC) (Chair), John Dixon (JD), Jenny Eaglestone (JE), Isabel Foster (IF), Moira Marshall (MM), John May (JM), Sue May (SM), Alison Newbery (AN), Diana Wilson (DW)

1.	Apologies for absence	
	Brian Farrand (BF), Janet Forde (JF), Mike Scholes (MS),	
2.	Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday 19 November 2024	
	The minutes were agreed as a correct record.	
	On the subject of minutes, it was agreed that to avoid waste, only the agenda should be printed for future meetings. Other papers could be read on screen, and committee members could print for themselves if required.	
3.	Matters arising and Action Points not otherwise on the agenda	
	Tutors' expenses consultation: AN to draft an email to the 51 tutors currently eligible, to give them the choice whether to claim expenses. Those not on email will receive a printed letter. For new tutors, the tutor guidelines point out the choice.	AN
4.	40 Anniversary Review	
	It was agreed this was a good report on a very successful anniversary year, with many volunteers contributing to the success. AN to include an edited version in the Spring newsletter, and the full version to be published on the website by JE	AN JE
5.	Safeguarding update	
	BF and IF had looked at the policy and decided it does not currently need updating. JE to email tutors reminding them of the policy, with a link to where it can be found on the website, and directing them to BF/IF for any queries or concerns. Concerns were raised about a tutor in the early stages of dementia. Currently the class are supporting them, but it was agreed it could become a safeguarding issue for both the tutor concerned and the class. A member of the class will be contacting the tutor's partner, and when this has happened IF will become involved from the safeguarding side. The more general question was raised of how we could better support tutors and members with dementia issues, and it was agreed that IF should contact a dementia support group for advice.	JE IF IF
6.	Development of Finance Discussion on 19 November	
	Fee increases will be detailed in the Spring Newsletter as follows: the subscription rises from £16 to £18 per year, £15 classes fees rise to £20, acoustic guitar and woodcarving rise from £20 to £23 and the Mixed Choir rises from £20 to £25. The Carol Service report is in the newsletter. Costs were 250 sheets printed for £53, £140 paid to Vintage Brass, and £180 to the church. £549 was raised for the two charities. The Carol Service date for 2025 is 9 December.	?

	It was agreed that it would not be necessary to move the date of the AGM to combine it with a performance event. As many of the music groups run in the summer term, and the mixed choir starts early, the only groups which might have a limited amount of rehearsal time would be the Ladies' Choir and the Ukelele Group. MS had agreed to oversee the planning so it was agreed to ask him to go ahead with setting up the organisation of the event. Annual accounts: it was noted that the Committee has the responsibility for approving the accounts, then they are received at the AGM. The constitution: we need a resolution in the Autumn newsletter for the AGM for changes to the constitution to clarify what is a quorum. JM to bring forward a proposal.	JM
7.	Working Group on Amalgamation	
	The notes of the meeting on 9 December had been presented to the committee. DRC reported that the next meeting of the group, on 29 January at 2:15, will be with national U3A representatives including a Beacon expert, and the committee members are invited. Various points were made on the notes. AN suggested members should be reminded to update their details if necessary in the newsletter. On the point about using bank transfers for refunds rather than cheques in paragraph 4 of the notes, AN pointed out that there would be major security issues in holding members' bank details. It was noted that we need assurance that Beacon would be able to cope with a branch our size. It was also noted that the proposed questionnaire to members on whether they were happy to go paperless would need committee approval. There was some discussion about the health implications of going paperless resulting in more screen time. It was agreed that DRC's introduction to the Spring Newsletter should include a reference to the fact that talks have begun exploring the option of affiliation to the national organisation.	
8.	Admin/Office	
8.1	Member number update The total number of members who had joined or renewed up to 21/01/25 was 1017, about 5% down on the same time last year. The number of new members was 180, about 7% down on the same time last year.	
8.2	Website Nothing to report.	
8.3	Spring Newsletter AN is currently awaiting responses from summer tutors on whether they plan to run classes. There were no trips to include as there were no volunteers to organise them. AN proposed the date for sending out as 20 February.	AN
9.	Reports from Officers	
	Venue Update Nothing to report.	
	Equipment Nothing to report.	
	Facebook JE reported that there is now a check on the posts which were giving concern, so they have to be approved before publishing.	

	Publicity We had been approached by Huddersfield Grapevine, a free directory/magazine which they say is delivered to 8000 homes and businesses in Huddersfield and can be read on their website at local-mags.co.uk. We were offered a free article. JM/SM to put an article together.	JM/SM
	Transport for Disabled Members	
	Nothing to report	
10.	AOB	
	DRC reported that the first of the one-off talks had been well attended. £90 was collected against a room cost of £48. The committee was asked to look out for speakers for future sessions. Office Volunteer: we have a new volunteer who has visited the office, Cat Harvard. Another volunteer also offered, but as we are fully staffed for the present he has been invited to help with trips, talks etc if interested.	
11.	Date & Time of Next Meeting: - Thursday 20 March 2025 at 2.00 at Aspin House	
	Meeting closed at 15:05.	