

FOUR BORDER ABBEYS u3a

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2024 at 10:30 am

Apologies: LH

Present: JS, PS, LM, HH, AG, DS, RA, MC

Minutes;

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 October 2024 were agreed as a true record.

Matters Arising:

- Minutes of the meeting held in September have been forwarded to GO for inclusion on the website.
- Domain Names: RA presented a paper on purchasing a domain name which would provide 8 or 9 email addresses which could be passed on easily when postholders changed. This would also allow for document storage. RA to liaise with HH regarding u3a documents currently being stored by her. The estimated cost is between £5 and £10 per month. It was agreed that John A be asked to investigate details of packages and costs and that this item be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.
- Website Statistics: GO has provided details on website statistics. It was agreed to ask her to provide another report in 6 months' time so that we can monitor performance.
- Trustee Code of Conduct Policy: the policy has been forwarded to GO for inclusion on the website.
- Kelso Bus Route: JS reported that the timetable has been amended and buses are now more frequent. It was agreed to continue to monitor this.

Chair's Report

JS reported that he had nothing to report that was not dealt with under other agenda items.

Treasurer's Report

- RA presented the Statement of Accounts for the current financial year. The balance was currently £6167.71
- Gift Aid: RA reported that this had provided us with additional income of £518.75 this year and estimated we would get £600 next year.

Secretary's Report

LH reported that her laptop had been upgraded and that her u3a Secretary's email was now working and that she is now on the bank mandate. She had received Beacon training from JA and some helpful sessions from Claire on the Secretary's role. She thanked the Committee for their patience whilst she got to grips with the role.

Group Co-ordinator's Report

- LM reported that we currently have 45 active groups which was very healthy number.
- The new German group was going well and is now full.
- The Singing For Fun Group have asked if they can use u3a funds to buy music for the Group's keyboard player. It was agreed that they could spend up to £50 per year but if they needed more this would be considered by the Committee.
- Possible new groups: LM reported that a member had suggested forming a group to play traditional music and that she would email all members to canvass interest in this subject. Meetings to set up other proposed new groups – Armchair Globetrotting, Calligraphy and Classical Music are still pending.

Membership Secretary's Report

AG reported that we currently have 392 members. 52 members had either died, resigned or not renewed this year. This compared with 55 members for the previous year.

Succession Planning

RA noted that there is a maximum term of office of 3 years but that Officers can then stand as Committee Members and that Committee Members can then stand as officers. There was an overall limit of 9 years. She suggested that we should co-opt committee members next year so that they can become familiar with the roles of Committee and Officers.

JS agreed to clarify what each Committee Member can stand for under the rules.

It was agreed to table this item for the next meeting.

Christmas Social

Arrangements for this were discussed. A quiz would be followed by food with music played whilst members ate. HH agreed to get a prize for the team winning the quiz. There would be a free raffle and the session would conclude with a performance of the u3 band. It was agreed that a reminder of the meeting would be sent out to members. It was also agreed that we should give a gift to the Rugby Club caretaker to thank her for her assistance over the year.

Proposed Dates of Committee Meetings in 2025

It was agreed that there would be no Committee Meeting on 3 January

A brief Committee Meeting would be held at the conclusion of the General Meeting on 9 January in order to approve the final accounts.

The following Committee Meetings will be held at 2 p.m. in Abbey Row on:

31 January 2025

28 February 2025

28 March 2025

25 April 2025

30 May 2025

Any Other Business

- **Votes for Council and Board of u3a:** JS said he would register for our u3a to vote in forthcoming elections for the u3a Council and Board.
- **Gift to Retiring Secretary**
- (JS excused himself from this discussion because of a conflict of interest. LM took the chair for this item.) It was agreed that we should record a vote of thanks to our retiring Secretary, Claire B, and that she be given a gift to the value of £30.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11:50 a.m.