Minutes of the 255th meeting of the Settle District u3a committee

Friday 5th July 2024

Present

Robert Jackson, Barbara Herring, Iain Burke, Sue Ashwell, Colin Ashwell, Chris Barnes, Les Chandler

Also present; Alie Bird, Phil Hinde

1. Apologies for absence

Kathy Parker, Lis Cribb, Jeanne Hinde, Sarah Lister

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Agreed and signed.

3. Matters arising

Training

- Finance training to be arranged for individuals if required. Documents already circulated
- First aid course - 3 hour morning session run. Positive feedback. Would have to charge for future courses, but might have internal resources.

  Action: information on first aid points, e.g. location of defribillator, for group leaders
- Line marking – Methodist church now interested but want to claw it back in some way. U3a happy to contribute. However netball already expensive and church will get a more attractive venue. General feeling cost should be split with shortfall to be made up in other ways eg sponsored netball match with the church

  Action: LC2 to go back to Tim to negotiate split of costs.

  Action: form for the council grant – needs another signature and bank details

4. Reports

a) Chair

Report received, nothing to record

b) Secretary

Report received, nothing to record

c) Treasurer

Year end accounts presented by BH. Overall operating with deficit of approximately £2,000 pa. Need to look ahead as by end of 2024/25 will no longer have necessary reserves as recommended by TAT. Biggest cost is room hire, followed by TAT – capitation, magazine & Beacon cost per person. Three options: cut costs – tricky as they're largely outwith our control, change the financial policy to reduce amount of reserves (not recommended by BH) – or increase either annual fees or 50p per meeting cost. Don't have to make a decision now, but could change the 50p per meeting cost from September. BH thanked for putting this together. Agreed that will need to be looked at again ready for next year. Views to be sought at AGM and members asked for their preferences.

d) Group Co-ordinator

Report received, nothing to record

e) Membership Secretary

See renewals

f) Third Age Trust, YAHR, WestNet

TAT: elections for new chair – 3 standing. Will vote for current vice-chair Alan Walmsley.

YAR; RJ attended AGM in Leeds. Issues discussed reflected priorities within Settle District u3a. Nationally, 500,000 members are wanted, but groups don't see why they need to do this Happy to look at increasing membership but only within their own parameters.

WestNet: Last meeting at Ilkey usefulness of meetings questioned. Agreed were useful opportunity to share practice and that all members would ensure were represented at future meetings. Bradford are using Siteworks. IB to get in touch. Bradford have made groups self-funding – as do Skipton. Ilkley running a summer programme. One off days, taster sessions, etc. Worth considering for next year.

Action; RJ to vote for Alan Walmsley in TAT chair elections

IB to contact Bradford u3a to discuss benefits and problems with Siteworks

5. Renewals

Renewals: under way. Email message on 1st July generated £1,000 n membership fees. Publicity via flyers,etc. Monthly meeting on 10th, so some renewals will be done then. Extra sign-up day at Friends' Meeting House on 30th July.

6. Sign-on day

Plan of room for sign-on day circulated. Refreshments already organised by CB. Also renewals to be done on day. 4 people needed – KP, BH, SA, LC. Discussion about what to do about groups that are full. Try to get people in a group who aren't active off the list. Request circulated to group leaders. However agreed need to have fall back position where a group is full. All groups should have waiting list with view to setting up new group if possible. Inquiries desk to be staffed on the day to take names of those unable to join their preferred groups. Also good to have somebody at the entrance to welcome people and direct them in the correct direction.

Flyers -500 - have been produced. Need to be distributed along with posters. Any other ideas welcome. Suggestion from PH that Community News be contacted.

7. Newsletter

Bumper edition. Thanks to Sarah for putting it together.

8. Monthly Meetings

Meeting on 11th – all sorted.

9. Publicity

Leaflets now ready for new members.

Website: feedback from YAHR conference that Siteworks is preferred option for TAT and that they will be providing support for u3as using this. Concerns over succession planning for website and publicity.

Action: RJ to contact Richard Hinde to discuss future plans and any possible revisions to website

10. AGM

LC will prepare agenda. No motions from committee at this stage. Likely to be at least one from members

Determine options over fee structure to be put to AGM

11. AOB

None

12. Date time and venue of next meeting

Friday 2 August 2024 at 1pm Friends meeting House