

Minutes of the 431st Meeting of Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday 19 August 2022 at 10.00 am

At Methodist Hall, Fremington

Present Keith Luckhurst, David Dickinson, Roger Bray, Nigel Wright, Gill Dow, Sue Thomas, Ellie Bray, Pam Harman, Maureen Penny

1Apologies: Julia Denton, Laurence Hillel.

2 Minutes of meeting held on 15th July 2022, were agreed – proposed by David, seconded by Nigel.

3Matters Arising;

Actions outstanding from previous meetings: - All others considered closed

Action: Keith to raise question, at next Link meeting (October), of any special measures taken by other groups in order to accommodate large numbers at special events.

Maureen has been accepted onto the free nutrition and health survey and is awaiting more information. However, she has become aware that this might not be a genuine survey and could be a scam.

Sue has paid for the copyright licence but is waiting to receive a paper copy.

Roger has made contact again with the Gazette and will resend the article about the Open Day. If this is not successful, the matter will be dropped.

Sue summarised what funds are held for various groups. £47.50 is held for the European Circle Dance group which no longer exists. This will need to be incorporated back into general funds.

Any deficit outstanding for the How It Works group at the end of September will be included in the general expenditure figures on 1st October.

Action: Sue to incorporate funds from European Circle Dance group into general income and, at the end of September, transfer any outstanding deficit for How It Works into club expenditure.

Action: David to compile a list of committee members in alphabetical order, for each to write a short article about themselves, for inclusion in the monthly newsletter.

The new roller banner was displayed and Nigel thanked for his work in preparing it.

Action: Sue to send a copy of the invoice for the roller banner to Roger for inclusion in the assets register.

4 Chairman

5 National Office

Keith reported that he had received notification from National Office that the membership fee {capitation fee} is likely to increase by 20% in 2023. This equates to £0.20 per member. It was not considered necessary to respond to this.

6 Business Secretary

Roger has spoken to Helen at Roundswell hall who informed him that there have been some incidents of vandalism at the hall. The police were notified but no action can be taken without more evidence. There have been no more incidents of late.

We store sound equipment, approximately worth £400 - £500 in the cupboard at the hall.

Action: Pam to ascertain if our equipment is covered for theft under the hall's insurance.

Pam is currently in possession of a CD player, previously used by the Italian group, and would like to purchase it if surplus to requirements. It was agreed that this was possible, for a nominal fee of £1.00.

The aged computer recently given to one of our members needs to be deleted from the assets register.

Action: David to give Roger the necessary information so that this can be done.

7 Beacon

Gill has received new terms and conditions for the use of Beacon and has sent these to Roger for filing.

8 Treasurer

Bank balance currently standing at £9289.08.

9 Membership Secretary

Membership currently – 277 of which 20 are affiliated members.

Since 1 August, 8 new members (including 1 affiliated) have joined.

10 Groups Coordinator

Nothing to report

11 Speakers' Secretary

Keith read out the list of speakers for 2023

Action: Keith to circulate list of speakers to committee members.

The last speaker, although enjoyed by some, was not appreciated by everyone

Keith has received an email request, via Vicky, for sponsorship, £250 from Patrons, or £25 from supporters from the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon Development trust, to help finance the publication of a collection of essays by Todd Gray {speaker for 2023} linked to their 1640/70 exhibition, taking place from November 2022 to February 2023 in the Barnstaple museum. It was agreed that this be forwarded on to the Local History group to make them aware of the exhibition and also to determine if they wish to be sponsors

Action: Keith to forward email received to the Local History group, via Laurence.

12 Newsletter Editor

The Editor would be glad to receive more newsworthy information from groups

13. North Devon Link

Nothing to report

14.Roundswell Hall and Fremington.

All fees are increasing and relevant group leaders have been informed:-

Fremington will increase to £24.00 and Sticklepath to £30.00

15. Lunches

To date, Sue has sold 19 tickets for the autumn lunch.

It was agreed by the committee that the Christmas lunch would be a carvery and that tickets will cost £19.00. This price would include a contribution of 0.25p/ head towards staff gratuities. Although we need to sell 70 tickets in order to have the carvery, this was not considered to be a problem.

16.AOB

David reported that the 'old' laptop used for the sound system at Roundswell had developed a fault with the HDMI connection and was not reliable. It was agreed to investigate if any repairs were possible.

Action: David to give Roger the laptop who will then ask a known computer engineer what could be done, at a reasonable cost.

Keith reported that a new affiliate member, who was active in setting up the original u3a movement in the UK, has given him articles and newspaper cuttings from 1994, when the Barnstaple group was established. It was agreed that this could be of interest to some members, and can be obtained via Nigel

Action: Nigel agreed to scan the documents for general circulation.

Keith asked the committee to consider the idea of holding a Craft/ Art/ Mosaic show/ sale in a prominent public space, such as the Green Lanes shopping centre or Roundswell hall, in the lead up to Christmas. If a suitable location was available and our own club groups are willing to take part, then other local u3a groups – Taw, Torridge, and Braunton - could also be invited to share the space and cost. The committee agreed in principle, dependant on where and when this could happen and what costs would be involved.

Action: Keith to establish if Green lanes or Roundswell hall are available at a weekend in November, before mentioning it to our groups and other u3as

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday 1 September, with speaker Pam Vass. Pam Harman to organise refreshments.

Date of Next Committee Meeting: Friday 16 September at Fremington Hall. Nigel to organise coffee etc

Meeting closed at 11.16 am, with Keith thanking all for their attendance and involvement.

