

Minutes of the Chepstow u3a Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4th March 2025

Present: Shelagh Davies, Nicky Lee, Rob Davies, Brian Marshall, Pam Harrison, Jenny Channing, Angela LeFevre, Derek Shottin, Rose Parkhouse, Viv Davies, Sue Harkins, Cathy Lewis, Tony Wilson, Hugh Hutton.

Apologies: None

Minutes of previous meeting: accepted.

Matters Arising: None

Secretary – Hugh

AGM arrangements – 60 proxy votes have been received: 23 for all resolutions and 37 to be used at the chairman's discretion. Prior to voting for the committee, nominations from the floor should be sought for the chairman.

Treasurer – Rob, Brian

Brian was thanked for managing the group accounts during Rob's absence.

The financial statement and groups statement were noted.

The registration details for the AwayDays SumUp card reader have got confused and need to be corrected. **Action:** Rob/Brian/Nicky.

Membership – Pam, Viv

During February, 10 new full members and two associated members joined, 16 members resigned and one sadly died. As at 28th February, membership on Beacon was 1092, compared with 1050 in 2024. 373 renewals have been made leaving 556 outstanding.

The need for financial information in the monthly return was discussed. It was agreed that, provided there was no significant change to the difference between the membership account and main ledger, the financial information did not need to be discussed.

Group Support – Rose, Sue

The wine tasting and play reading groups are getting large and could potentially split into two groups.

The alcohol-free fun group is seeking a new leader and, without this, is likely to fold.

The Beacon group has been set up to provide a 'one stop shop' to support new groups.

The group leaders' focus group should be set up in the next couple of months.

Good interest has been expressed in a Chair Pilates group, an instructor has been identified but a group leader is required. Those interested will be invited to meet following a Tuesday Live meeting. **Action:** Rose, Sue.

A prospective member is interested in setting up a Carrooka group. This will be followed up when he joins.

The AwayDays two-day visit to Derbyshire is fully subscribed with 10 reserves. The financial projections were reviewed and the trip was authorised. **Action:** Nicky.

Social

The quiz was won by strollers by half a point from AwayDays. The Real Ale question setters were praised for their innovative approach and the quiz was judged to be a great success.

The only costs for the skittles social evening will be for the fish and chips. Payments should be channelled into the main account.

The guitar group have agreed to play for the carol singing at the Christmas coffee morning.

Programme – Cathy

The programme for 2025 Tuesday Live has been set apart from the summer party. Two musical groups would be required. Suggestions included Wyld Bird Seed; Whirligigs; a Sea Shanty group; and Paid Gofyn. A PA system could be required for groups.

It was agreed that the Aneurin Bevan community engagement was not suitable for Tuesday live and we should decline their offer. **Action:** Secretary.

Website – Derek

Nothing major to report. Some minor issues are to be resolved with the developer.

Domains – Derek

Nothing to report.

Beacon – Tony

Minor issues are being resolved. TAT Beacon training is available for new post-holders, but it was agreed that Tony and Ann Pitman could offer better-tailored training. Those interested should contact Tony.

Chair – Shelagh, Nicky

The magazine introduction 'Thoughts from Y Caws Mawr' (or similar) is required by 20th of the month at the latest and the new committee needs to agree how this will be provided. Derek has set an early meeting of the new committee to discuss this and other items that need to be resolved before the April committee meeting.

Nicky was congratulated on her election to u3a Council. Nicky described her new role as taking Welsh u3a information to Council and feeding back board strategies to deal with issues raised.

The two candidates that we voted for as TAT trustees (Laurence Wale and Pauline Green) have been elected along with Alan Russell and John Bent. It was felt that this was a good result and should help ensure that the board are responsive to the needs of the constituent u3as.

The u3a chairs' forum has proved to be very valuable and continued membership was urged. Nicky and Shelagh offered to continue attending until a new chairman is in place.

Hugh was thanked for his extended period as secretary.

Nicky and Shelagh were thanked for their term as joint chairs.

Next Meeting – 12th March 2025 15:00 at Derek's house