

Minutes of Committee Meeting June 3rd 2025 at the Drill Hall 11.30 am

Note CMs = Committee Members, TAT = Third Age Trust, GL = Group Leader

Present: Helen Kirkcaldy (in the Chair), Stephen Dance, Jenny Channing, Brian Marshall, Angela LeFevre, Rose Parkhouse, Pam Harrison, Tony Wilson, Sue Harkins, Derek Shottin.

Apologies: Rob Davies, Cathy Lewis, Viv Davies

Helen and Stephen were formally elected as Chairs of Chepstow u3a and the Chain of Office was handed over by one of the previous Chairs, Nicky Lee.

The minutes of the last Committee Meeting were formally approved. There were no matters arising that were not covered later in the Agenda

Chairs – Helen, Stephen

- Our Welsh Council represented, Nicky Lee, gave an account on the new set up of TAT. Nicky has summarised her talk and it has been added to the end of the minutes.
- Nicky will write an article for the Magazine outlining this new set up.
- Nicky was given permission to use our Zoom until the TAT Zoom is available.
- Update of the Strategic Plan will be deferred to September

Secretary – Derek

- Derek thanked the CMs for helping to set up the Drill Hall. Hopefully the room will be set up correctly next month. Derek will write to the Drill Hall management expressing concern about the current organisation problems. **Done**
- Derek thanked Jenny for organising the welcome reception for the new Chairs.
- Notes from Council Representatives
 - It was agreed to add these to a TAT page on the Footer menu of the website and include a link to the TAT website. **Done**
- Our large Drill Hall cupboard still has no lock.
- Derek will investigate where we could hang our Handicrafts Quilt. **Probably St. Arvans Village Hall**
- The In Case of Emergency article is in the June Magazine and an updated version is in the Footer of the website
- The AV team are assessing the Caldicot AV equipment. They are very happy people! Note: the wireless microphone and receiver that were used successfully for the Tuesday Live entertainer in the afternoon came from the Caldicot equipment.

Treasurer – Rob, Brian

- Financial & Groups Statements and Budget Comparison were presented to CMs.
- Emails or WhatsApp will be used to alert when payments need authorising in the absence of one of the Treasurers.
- There was discussion why some Groups have large balances.

Programme – Cathy

- Nothing in the absence of Cathy

Membership Team – Pam, Viv

- The Membership Report was presented to CMs.
- 63 members are still to pay of which 43 are not in Groups. All have been contacted by email or phone.
- It was agreed members who have not paid their Membership by the June 7th Coffee Morning will be 'Lapsed' and removed from Groups and will then be 'Deleted' from Beacon at the beginning of August. **Action Membership Team**

Group Support Team (GST) – Rose, Sue

- Groups
 - Meeting with Painting for Pleasure new GLs next week
 - Also new disabled walking Group
 - Chair Pilates going ok
 - History still looking for GL
- Group Leaders Meeting on Friday 6th June – 11.00 am to about 12.30 pm
 - An informal meeting for the new Chairs to meet and chat with GLs.
 - 9 CMs and 23 GLs so far.
 - Perhaps hold next GL meeting on a day other than Friday?
 - GL Forum – a couple more members needed. GST may try to recruit at the GL meeting.

Social - Jenny

- Skittles
 - Very successful. Better than last year. Food was good.

South Wales Network – Derek

- AGM in May was very disjointed with no elections, lots of repetition and no structure to the meeting. The Network will fold if u3as do not come forward to show interest in supporting it.
- Next meeting is 23rd July.
- Stephen may offer to get involved.

Website and Domains – Derek

- The domain for communicating with Hostworld was changed six 6 months ago due to Spam and either Hostworld were not told or did not record the new email address. Consequently, we did not receive their email requesting payment and they suspended the account.
- Following payment the domains were reinstated.
- However, they also host the domain for the website and despite several communications it took them more than 36 hours to reinstate the website.
- To prevent this happening again full details have been added to the Year Planner and an explanation added to the Domain Page of the website. We will also consider changing who will host the website. The website developer has offered to do this for a small charge.

- We have also discovered that the Security Certificate must be renewed annually by website developer in October. This is now in the Year Planner.
- The Chairs would like a meeting with the website developer to discuss security of website.

Action Derek

Beacon – Tony

- u3a Officers and System Users deferred to July meeting

Any Other Business

- What is the ideal number of members for a u3a? There is no answer to this question but there is no point attracting new members if there are not enough Groups for them to join.
- Following the meeting there was a discussion about taking names of members at Tuesday Live meetings. Currently the list is handed to the Secretary who files them.
 - What is the purpose?
 - Could we do something with the names?
 - Could we do it better?

Next Meeting Tuesday July 1st at 11.30 am at Drill Hall

Nicky's Account of the New TAT Board and Council Arrangements

I briefly outlined the reasoning behind the creation of the National Council and described the objective to be a conduit to enable the voice of u3as to influence the work of TAT. A smaller Board would then focus on governance, finance and delivering the agreed strategy.

The Council was formed on April 1st 2025, we have had one face to face meeting and two online meetings with another face to face meeting on June 10th.

Currently, the parameters of the Council's brief, and the tools and resources required are under negotiation with the Board. Many thanks to the committee for allowing me to use their zoom link until the Welsh representatives are given a TAT zoom link.

Understandably at this early stage there are many frustrations with the level of support being given to the Council from the Board, however, the Council are determined to fulfil the mission that we have been given.

It is imperative that the Council representatives hear from the u3as in their region on a regular basis in order that it is the voice of u3as and not the voice of the Council that goes forward.

Chepstow have lobbied hard for more detailed and more frequent financial information, this has been unsuccessful. I will take forward Tony Wilson's suggestion for the Council to be the conduit for improved financial information.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Chepstow u3a for their continued support, it is much appreciated.