

**Minutes of Sandbach & District u3a Trustees Meeting**  
**held at 9.30am Monday 17 March 2025**

| Item |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Action                                   |
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| 1    | <p><b>Present:</b> Kate Ashcroft, Linda Bilsborrow, Paula Reilly Cooper, Gillian Curtis, Moira Egan, Alice Holmes, Stuart Naylor, Steve Roe, Ken Talbot, Linda Williams</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Alan Casey, Barrie Hacking</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                          |
| 2    | <p><b>Minutes of February meeting</b><br/>Accepted as a correct record</p> <p><b>Matters arising</b><br/>None</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                          |
| 3    | <p><b>AGM</b></p> <p>78 people voted. All proposals were accepted by a large majority and no questions or issues were raised.</p> <p>Given the low numbers participating, we need to look at arrangements for next year – e.g. whether voting mechanism could be simpler, or whether to have the speaker first and then the AGM. Stuart to include in future agenda</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Stuart                                   |
| 4    | <p><b>Fees working group</b></p> <p>We agreed to ask Alex Black if he wishes to be part of this group.</p> <p>Terms of reference were agreed. The only minor modification to the wording was bullet #5, which now reads <i>Should u3a activities be free to members receiving pension credit or other state benefits (other than a state pension)?</i></p> <p>We noted that, as well as equipment costs for groups, we will also pay for other expenses for group activities, such as subscriptions, costs for occasional speakers, and so on. Paula will send an email to GLs to remind them of this.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>Stuart</p> <p>Stuart</p> <p>Paula</p> |
| 5    | <p><b>Mechanism for offering free sessions to members of venue groups</b></p> <p>Paula was not present when this item was discussed previously.</p> <p>After extensive discussion we decided to suspend this proposal until after decisions were made about paid tutor groups.</p> <p>Our recent management of paid tutor groups has been extremely effective. Overall they made a surplus of £6+K in 2022-3 and £7+K in 2023-4. We can anticipate that they will continue to generate a substantial surplus. Reducing this surplus would be an alternative to offering free sessions to venue groups. Paula and Gillian will look at how this might be done and bring proposals to our next meeting.</p> <p>Note: the decision to reduce the annual membership fee to £5 and to have a single annual fee at a reduced level for non-venue groups is unaffected.</p> | Paula, Gillian                           |
| 6    | <p><b>Leaflet for new members</b></p> <p>Minor alterations suggested were:</p> <p>P2 Include the full web address for our Facebook page</p> <p>P2 The number of new members at coffee mornings needs adjusting</p> <p>P3 Change wording for setting your own password</p> <p>P3 Newsletters are not sent out monthly</p> <p>P4 Needs our charity Number in a footer</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                          |

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|    | All the photos show members engaged in physical activity, which is misleading<br>Sandbach Partnership will be able to print the leaflets                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Ken                                                 |
| 7  | <p><b>Possible purchase of PA system</b></p> <p>We record our thanks to Keith Haines for his research into this.</p> <p>If a PA system is not suitable for use in the Town Hall then it will only be used occasionally – e.g. for Quiz Nights. Hiring a PA system may be a better alternative. Linda has had a quote for 150 + VAT for hiring (including set up) a suitable system; <b>Stuart will also obtain a quote.</b></p> <p>Kate will make enquiries of Kevin &amp; Joy Siddall about their system, which works well in the Town Hall.</p> <p>Ken will ask Keith Haines to estimate the cost of a system suitable for the Town Hall.</p> <p><b>Until we have all this information, and until Alan is back from his cruise, we will defer any decision about possible purchase.</b></p> <p>Linda B will speak to Julie about arrangements for the April Quiz Night.</p> | <p>Stuart</p> <p>Kate</p> <p>Ken</p> <p>Linda B</p> |
| 8  | <p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>a) The finance report was accepted.</p> <p>b) We noted that more than one person needs to have access to bank account. Finances will be transferred to Sharepoint when Alan returns.</p> <p>Gillian will add a note to the accounts in future if it appears that trips have made a loss because money in/money out has gone over two financial years.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <p>Gillian</p> <p>Gillian</p>                       |
| 9  | <p><b>Membership update</b></p> <p>The membership report was accepted.</p> <p>New member coffee mornings will continue as usual until we <b>see how the coffee mornings organised by RUG go.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                     |
| 10 | <p><b>Update on groups</b></p> <p>Bookings for the bowling greens in Sandbach Park will be managed by Cheshire East. It will take some time before invoicing arrangements are sorted out.</p> <p>Lesley Montgomery will be the new GL for Long Walks.</p> <p>Jinty Pyke will step down as Patchwork GL in September.</p> <p>A new croquet group is a possibility – watch this space!</p> <p>Linda W has noticed that one member has had a couple of accidents recently and wishes to do a personal risk assessment for this member. She and Paula will organise this.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <p>Linda W</p> <p>Paula</p>                         |
| 11 | <p><b>Trustees admin</b></p> <p>No information to add</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                     |
| 12 | <p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>Fodens Band will offer a 25% discount for members on their concerts. They are willing to do an article about our u3a in their magazine.</p> <p>The first RUG coffee afternoon is on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2.00-4.00 pm at the Wesley Centre. There will be a 3-month trial.</p> <p>SMASH – supporting people just out of hospital with their everyday needs – receives funding from Cheshire East. They need volunteers for this. Ken will mention this in an update.</p> <p>Our independent auditor for our accounts wishes to stand down. We can explore possibilities through the local u3a cluster.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p>Ken</p>                                          |

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|  | <p>Alice has a theatre trip in September where demand is insufficient. We agreed that she should open this to Alsager u3a.</p> <p>Dementia Friendly Sandbach runs regular awareness-raising courses, and they will be having an Easter Party on April 25.</p> | <p>Linda B,<br/>Stuart</p> <p>Alice</p> |
|  | <p>Meeting closed at 11.25 am.</p> <p><b>Next Trustees meeting on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April at 09.30 am</b></p> <p><b>NB Note this is a week earlier than usual because of Easter Monday</b></p>                                                           |                                         |