

Preston and District u3a Committee Meeting
Minutes of the meeting held at 10am on 29th November 2023 at
St Cuthbert's Church, Lytham Road, Fulwood, PRESTON

	AJC welcomed the committee and then pointed out the fire exits etc.	
		Actions
1. In Attendance	Tony Cheetham (AJC) - Chair Kay Harrison (KH) - Vice Chair Sue Holder (SJH) – Secretary Margaret Clark (MC) – Assistant Treasurer David Parker (DP) – Beacon Administrator Peter Kitchen (PK) - Membership Secretary Sheena Clowes (SC) –Groups Coordinator (co-opted)	As per signed sheet
2. Apologies	Sheila Finch, Janet Nixon	
3. Minutes of the last meeting	The minutes of the last meeting held on 29th September were accepted and signed as a true record.	
4. Matters arising from the minutes	Re. Pickle Ball: No further progress due to time pressures. Re. Meet and Eat: The first lunch meeting has now been held and was attended by 31 members.	AJC
	OFFICERS' REPORTS	
5. Report of Chair and Vice Chair	<p>Chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. A written report was submitted. ii. The Chair's recent talk to the Winkley Club generated a fee of £75 which will be donated to Marie Curie. iii Re. AGM planning: the Chair and Secretary have met recently and agreed a timetable starting in January. iv. Re. succession planning: The posts of Chair, Assistant Treasurer, Speaker Organiser and Members' Representative will become vacant in 2024. Some members have expressed interest in these roles. It was agreed to invite prospective candidates to attend the next committee meeting. v. The casting of Preston and District u3a's vote at the Third Age Trust AGM was done by the Chair as the Secretary was unable to attend online on the day of the event. vi. The Chair has visited St Martin's community hall. The facilities are good and there are rooms of varying size. Charges are competitive making this a venue worthy of consideration for groups /future events. vii. The Chair expressed a hope that his new national role within the u3a might lead to a different perspective on the development of local interest groups. The Secretary commented that to attract more men to the u3a it would be worth considering more sports-based groups such as, for example, walking cricket. <p>Vice Chair</p>	AJC
6. Report of the Secretary	i. There is a belly-dancing tutor based in Preston and a response to questions about her fee and availability are awaited.	SJH
7. Report of the Treasurer	A written report was submitted. The accounts are broadly in balance. Following a frank discussion of whether to raise interest group fees from £2.50 to £3.00 it was decided to maintain the charge at the current rate but to review the situation at the March committee meeting, when more data will be available, with a view to a possible increase at 1 st April 2024. The Chair stressed again that maintaining the charge at £2.50 was dependent on healthy and increasing attendances at Interest Groups, "All Member" events and Monthly Meetings and publicity for all of these needs to be maximised through Newsletters, Web Pages and Beacon.	
8. Report of the Assistant		

Full

Treasurer		
9. Report of the Membership Secretary	<p>A written report was submitted.</p> <p>There are currently 773 members and membership income is significantly higher than at the same time a year ago.</p> <p>Next year's renewals will be mainly made on-line or using Sum-up. Beacon needs to be updated to show those members paying online.</p> <p>Assistance from the Treasurer will be required to enable the use of SumUp on the designated notebook/tablet.</p> <p>The machine supplied by the Chair will require a blue-tooth dongle.</p>	<p>DP JN</p>
10. Report of the Groups Coordinator	<p>For some groups there is a significant gap between attendance fee receipts and accommodation costs. It was deemed sensible to try to combine two groups in a single session to reduce the impact of the increased accommodation charges.</p> <p>The Chair volunteered to discuss this with the relevant group leaders.</p> <p>The Groups Coordinator will ensure that the groups are advertised.</p> <p>Re. Bus Pass adventures group: It is hoped to begin this in spring. There would be a maximum group size of 10 approximately and a small charge would be levied of £1, say, to provide a printout explaining what to do should one get lost.</p>	<p>AJC SC SC</p>
11. Report of the Members' Rep	<p>A written report was submitted. The Chair expressed his thanks for the additional report which analysed the impact of an increase in group attendance fee to £3.00.</p>	
12. Report of Beacon Coordinator	.	
13. Report of Speaker Organiser		
14. Any other Business		
15. Date/Time/ Location of next meeting	<p style="text-align: center;">The next meeting will be held at: 10am on Wednesday 31st January 2024 in the Melrose Room, St Cuthbert's Church, Fulwood</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Chair thanked the committee and closed the meeting.</p>	

SIGNED AS A TRUE RECORD.....

DATE.....