Minutes of Saltash u3a Executive Committee AGM Debrief 10.11.23

The meeting commenced at 1030 in a quiet side area of the Tamar Nurseries Garden Centre.

Present: Amanda Smith, Gill Higgins, Barry Olver, Rose Olver, Peter Payne Hanlon, Jason Lamb, Sue Pym, Dee de Beaufort, Mo Kent.

Apologies: Marilyn Read and Rob Jenkins.

The Chair welcomed Dee and Mo as new committee members. An appropriate time to encourage more new members would be agreed in the new year.

AGM Business: The Chair asked for views on the way voting for the resolutions had proceeded. Peter felt that it had been a 50:50 success with support for Resolutions 1 and 2 enabling the Committee to continue but failure for Resolution 3 regarding the increase in membership fees. This met with agreement from all present.

Amanda explained why she had taken the decision to overrule the vote on Resolution 3. From her position facing the membership she could see that despite the narrow vote in favour there was considerable disquiet which stood the risk of alienating members in future.

There had been many valid points raised suggesting ways in which expenditure could be reduced and they would now be taken on board and carefully considered.

Main points for discussion were:

Hiring cheaper venues for the monthly meetings. The return to the Wesley had not been taken lightly despite the hire fees being more expensive than the Social Club. Increasing difficulties with the catering and lack of support from the staff, as well as IT issues had been the main reasons for the return. It was agreed that in the absence of another suitable venue in Saltash, that we would remain at the Wesley.

Reducing further the cost of Social 'Thank Yous'. It was felt important to continue these. One suggestion was that instead of a 'buffet' tea party at Christmas the main theme of the afternoon could be a Games Afternoon with refreshments limited to tea/coffee and mince pies. During the Showcase the Social Games Group had received a huge amount of interest and enthusiasm from members which suggests this approach would be well received in future. It was agreed to certainly consider this at a later date but to continue as planned for this year and hopefully the ticket approach would reduce food wastage as attendance numbers would be known.

TAM direct mailing costs. Currently £3.60 and included in the membership fee as in the past most members had agreed to opt into this on joining. Was it now time to ask members annually? It was pointed out that TAM is available on-line.

It was agreed that an increase in membership fees for September 2024 was inevitable particularly as the Wesley rent and speaker fees were a big unknown. It was decided that an EGM would be called as part of the 8th February 2024 meeting which would give time to hear from the Wesley and consider what would be an appropriate increase to put afresh to members. *Action: Amanda.

Barry also agreed to send an email to members to clarify the Financial Statement query from Sue Potter.

New Executive Committee Roles.

Most positions remained unchanged. Chair – Amanda, Vice Chair – Gill, Webmaster – Jason, Minute Secretary – Sue, Speaker Secretary – Marilyn, Member Secretary – Rose.

Changes. Peter to take over as Treasurer. Bank mandates to be actioned asap. Barry to take over as Secretary which would also enable him to retain access to Beacon whenever required to cover for Peter.

New members. Mo who had experience of being on the committee in the past kindly agreed to take over as Publicity Secretary with the support of Amanda. Dee preferred to familiarise herself with the workings of the Committee before taking on a role and Rob would be consulted on his return.

Vacant position – Group Secretary. Jason agreed to be the temporary Group's contact. *Action: Amanda to inform Group Leaders and to arrange handover with Lesley.

AOB.

Peter was able to confirm that he is not away when Barry and Rose take their extended holiday from 18th May to 16th June next year.

It was agreed that as diaries are already so full for the remainder of the year a Committee Lunch would now be held in January'24.

Catering for the Christmas Social would be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

Sue reported that during the break after the AGM she had spoken to a Group Leader and pointed out two new members who had been trying unsuccessfully to contact her whilst she had been abroad on an extended holiday, she had received a less than helpful response from the person concerned. That aside, the fact that there was no one holding the fort in her absence highlighted the need for all Group Leaders to have a designated deputy.

As Amanda and Peter were unavailable for the next Committee meeting on 1st December it was agreed to bring the meeting forward a week to Friday 24th November usual time 2pm. *Action: Barry to enquire as to whether the Shado booking can be altered to suit the revised date. If not, Amanda would make her house available.

Approved:

Date: