<u>Saltash u3a Executive Committee Minutes 06.02.26</u>

<u>Meeting commenced</u>: 1358

<u>Present</u>: Amanda Smith (Chair), Barry Olver (Vice Chair/Secretary), Peter Payne-Hanlon (Treasurer), Chris Masterson (Deputy Treasurer), Rose Olver (Membership), Rob Jenkins (Groups), Sue Matheron (Publicity), Ray Williams (Speakers), Jason Lamb (Webmaster), Rosemary Nankervis (Safeguarding), Trevor Earl (CM4), Lynn Parker (CM5), Sue Pym (Minutes).

<u>Apologies</u>: None, all in attendance.

<u>Minutes</u>: The minutes from 02.01.26 were approved, proposed by Peter and seconded by Rose.

<u>Chair</u>: 1. Chairs' Forum – The focus was 'Smaller and Rural u3as' with emphasis on the difficulties they encounter. Surprisingly the average membership number across the UK is 400-500 so that would put Saltash u3a in the topic category. Concerns affecting membership are access, particularly relevant to rural u3as where buses are infrequent and membership is scattered over a large area; ageing membership; late retirement; increasing grandparent responsibilities; poor IT skills; need for improved central office support; u3a still remains unknown to the public in general; proximity to other u3as. Many u3as in this category have introduced doubling of groups to meet the needs of clusters of isolated members and improved use of social networking such as Facebook. **2. 20th Anniversary** – Confirmed 2-5pm on Friday 4th September at the China Fleet Club, 168 max covers. As this is a special occasion it was agreed that instead of a buffet style tea previously suggested, we should opt for a full Afternoon Tea served on cake stands at each table. Total costs to be subsidised by our External Funding Account and the General Account if needed, cost to those attending £15. Ian Cassidy the u3a CEO has accepted his invitation to attend and will give a 20min talk before tea is served. During tea there will be a roving close-up Magician visiting the tables. Sue P. had made enquiries as to availability and the Committee opted to engage the services of Jonga Magic. *Action - Sue will confirm the booking and Barry will be his future contact. As not all members will attend, Rose is making a special Anniversary Cake (gluten free) which will be cut at the meeting on the 10th September. **3. Car Sharing** – Agreed to send TAT notification regarding car sharing procedures to all members. *Action – Barry. **4. Monthly meeting interaction** – Amanda will once again ask members at the monthly meeting to turn to the person on their right and introduce themselves. **5. Welcome and enquiries approach** – It was agreed to move the raffle table up under the hatch and place a 'Welcome table' to the left inside the main door. Information specific to Saltash u3a will be available in addition to the generic u3a leaflet. *Action – Lynn, who will also make a Welcome Desk sign. **6. Respect** – After an incident at the last meeting it was agreed that all members would be reminded that should they have any grievance it must be addressed in writing to the Secretary. *Action – Amanda. **7. 'Saltash Together'** – Amanda and Barry had attended the latest meeting where Saltash Community School presented their drive to work alongside the local community to reinstate traditional values such as respect and cooperation. Wednesday afternoons have been allocated for this and pupils can work towards certificates at varying levels. The school will organise safeguarding and transport. In conversation with the headteacher Amanda enquired as to how Saltash u3a could become involved and it was suggested that a Play Reading Group would be good start, members could choose which age group they would like to work alongside. IT support for members and sponsorship of individuals was also suggested. Lynn and Sue M expressed an interest in the Play Reading suggestion. **8. Christmas tree decorations** – 'The Stitch One Chat Too' Group is happy to make the Anniversary themed decorations this year. **9. Committee lunch** – Transport arrangements were confirmed. **10. Cornwall Communities newsletter** – Saltash u3a has a mention in the latest edition.

Secretary - Correspondence and Business: 1. Wesley rent - Barry read out the reply he had received from the Wesley Management Committee. Whilst there is no immediate rent increase, charges will be reviewed in September 2026 with a possible increase at that point or in January 2027. **2. Plymouth University links** – Barry gave feedback on his meeting with the Public Engagement Officer which covered various topics. No longer available are: some sites which are now rented out, Associate Membership, invitations to lectures and talks. We are welcome to attend on the Campus Open Days held on 25/04 and 20/06 and if sufficient notice of numbers attending were given then a Student Ambassador could be available to show us around. Hospitality - various rooms are available for hire, and all the university restaurants and cafes offering very good reasonably priced meals are open to the public. The initial link has now been established and the University would appreciate information about Saltash u3a to include in their quarterly newsletter. *Action – Sue M will make contact. **3. Data use and access Act 2025** – All had found this too wordy and difficult to read. It was agreed that it was not of immediate concern to us. *Action - Barry has informed Marian Luck of our views. **4. Working Calendar** – Planned document review is currently on hold due to workload pressures. *Action – Amanda and Barry. The Group Leaders' Social has been added for 16th April.

Treasurer: 1. Monthly outgoings - January payments totalled £895.90 including £381.90 to Fasthosts. **2. Accounts** – As of 02.02.26 the accounts stand at: **Main Account** - £3922.50 which includes £817.08 ring fenced Group funds; **Social Account** - £1227.50; **External Funding Account** - £1238.57; **Business Premium Account** - £6109.37.

Groups: 1. Risk Assessments - Rob reported no further queries. **2. Mens' Coffee Group Submarine visit** - Members have been informed to meet outside Albert Gate at 0930.
3. Quiz group – Meeting dates will be flexible.

Webmaster: 1. Beacon issue – Jason reported that one issue relating to non-delivery of emails remained to be resolved.

Membership: 1. Current membership -281. **2. Non- renewals** – 19 surveys sent out but only 4 replies received.

Speakers: 1. Emily Hobhouse talk – Ray is planning to personally collect the two tickets for the raffle as he has been unable to contact the museum and there is no phone number. The speaker will be asked to draw the winning raffle tickets. **2. January talk** – there was some disappointment with the content and quality of the speakers. **3. Apologies** – Ray gave advanced notice that due to changing circumstances he will be unable to meet and introduce the March speaker. A volunteer to take his place was sought but no one was able to commit at this stage.

Publicity: 1. Posters, leaflets and Observer articles– Sue M is currently rewriting and updating the A5 Posters for the Town Notice Boards. Amanda has a supply of the u3a leaflets which Sue M will also distribute to appropriate venues as well as re-instating the Monthly Meeting reports to 'The Observer'. **2. Face Book** – The drop box will contain details of future meetings. **3. Website update** – Sue continues to work with Jason to improve the website including the removal of out-dated content such as old Committee Minutes which could be archived or deleted. The web page banners need utilising. The front page has now been completed. The Show Case photographs are very dated and Mike Corber continues to work on finding suitable replacements. **4. Site Works** – The set-up fee is £50 and most u3as use Site Works for the technical support they offer including help with the introduction of on-line payments which in the medium term are the way forward. Sue now has an information pack which will enable her to decide whether she will recommend it to the Committee for Saltash u3a.

Safeguarding: No new guidelines have been issued. No report.

CM4: No report.

CM5: No report.

AOB: 1. New members' coffee morning - Due to the recent poor response resulting in cancellation, it was agreed that a different approach would be tried. In future this will be known as 'New members' get-together' to be held 1100-1300 at 'The Ploughboy' which now has a very welcoming atmosphere. Invites for the first meeting on 5th March will be sent out informing invitees that tea, coffee and soft drinks will be free but other beverages can be purchased at the bar. *Action – Barry to send out invites and Rose to enquire as to whether biscuits and cake can be provided or whether there are any objections to them being provided by the u3a. **2.u3a Friends** – As many of our members have not signed up to receive 'u3a Friends' Barry will email all members notifying them of an item regarding 'Festival 2026' which may be of interest to some. **3. Last Chance Band** – Pleased to report that several new members have recently joined. **4. Sponsorship/grants for 20th Anniversary** – Peter asked if we should consider seeking financial support for this event. It was agreed that as this was not for the benefit of the wider community it would not be appropriate. However, Amanda will consider if local businesses could be asked to offer raffle prizes in return for recognition. *Action – Amanda.

Meeting closed: 1615

Next Meeting: 06.03.26

Approved:

Date: