Minutes of Monmouth u3a Committee meeting: April 21st 2026

Committee Member's Home : 11.00am – 13.00 pm

1	**Present** (Alphabetical order)	Frank Birch, Phil Chadwick, Jo Handley, Phil Hewitt, Neil Hines, Aidan Hodgson, Monica Lofgren, Averil Macdonald (chair), Jan McLagan, Linda Wright
2	**Apologies**	David Milledge
3	**Minutes of previous meeting** - these were approved.	
4	**Action Grid – outstanding actions update** Most actions DONE. Action 2.16.1 : possible computer safety talk by AbilityNet shelved due to limited expression of interest. However, see agenda item 18. Actions concerning possible loan of and trialing of hearing equipment in groups, together with action on approaching Bridges about visibility of Monmouth u3a on their website, moved to a pending section as not appropriate to pursue at this point.	
5	**Plans for Facebook presence** Intent is to use Facebook and Instagram to generate interest/followers with frequent timely and appropriate posts. Similar campaigns elsewhere have generated significant interest. Such a campaign requires an event to capitalize on interest and the posts are intended to incentivize readers to come to the event. Such a campaign requires some financial outlay (£500 as a maximum was discussed). This would include £100 for a Meta business license plus some social media expertise-consultancy to start the campaign. Also needed is some in-house participation to monitor the Facebook and Instagram accounts being used and act upon the information that this provides. Having such support available is a prerequisite to proceeding any further. **Action 4.5.1:** poll membership by email for any possible volunteers to participate in such a campaign**.** **Action 4.5.2:** Circulate relevant documents to committee.	
6	**Other marketing opportunities** Get our prospectus back into shops following flood recovery and also into waiting rooms and other appropriate venues in and around Monmouth. **Action 4.6.1:** to be organized.	
7	**Support for website updating** Noted that recent support for Information Manager is no longer available. Attempt to find alternative. **Action 4.7.1:** poll membership for possible replacement	
8	**May magazine.** Initial copy looks good. Identified that we need a specification for what magazine editor requires in terms of format of an article. **Action 4.8.1:** ask magazine editor to produce spec	

9	**Obtaining content for magazine** Add material on "Be Involved" page of website encouraging members to submit content. Action 4.9.1: Arrange for update to "Be Involved" page.
10	**Charity Commission Annual Return** Consists of examined account and trustees annual report (for 2024-25). Account examination ongoing and expected to be complete by close 22nd. Comments on trustee annual report were reviewed and some minor changes agreed. **Action 4.10.1:** update report and pass to accounts examiner.
11	**TAM magazine subscriptions** The current list held by TAT has 10 entries. To date, four have confirmed they will pay for last years magazine. Agreed: the cost of those subscriptions that can't be recovered will be written off. **Action 4.11.1:** Update TAM magazine subscription list to include just those members who have agreed to pay for magazine going forward.
12	**Accommodation status** **Noted:** riverside appears to have reopened and could be investigated as a possible venue.
13	**Finance matters** A number of finance related documents had been submitted and were discussed. Key points: Agreed: Minor revision to the Financial Policy document. **Action 4.13.1:** Upload revised document to website. **Agreed:** Costings for summer party. Members will be charged £6.44 to attend. **Agreed:** Proposal to transfer funds that belonged to Walking Netball and Yoga Chair Based 2 into the New Groups Reserves account as both these groups have ceased all activities.
14	**Monthly report – Membership** Now stands at 1053 with 25 new members since last meeting. 8 joined during March and a further 17 during April. Next new members meeting scheduled for May 8th.
15	**Monthly report – Groups** **2nd Strength group :** 6 expressions of interest so now viable **German group –** tutor has been taken ill. Beginners group has been cancelled until end of term. Improvers group continuing to meet informally without tutor to practice conversation. **Grumpy Old Men –** sufficient interest and will now continue as part of Hobby Connect for members to decide how to meet and when. **Cooking** – no expressions of interest **Salsa –** going to visit group to see what is going on **Sewing –** no progress in moving to new location **Chamber music –** no activity. **CPR –** last session on May 12th. **Creative Fun with Fabrics** – ceased operation.
16	**Updated Group Convenor and Group coordinator role documents** Updates to these documents were signed off, and revised documents to be uploaded to website. **Action: 4.16.1**

17	**Grant application for equipment** This has now been submitted for consideration by the Monmouth town council.
18	**Proposed AbilityNet talk on scams** See action 2.16.1 under agenda item 4. Approach to keeping members informed about digital risks needs further consideration. Working Group of 6 committee members formed to consider further.
19	**Confirm details for afternoon meeting** Being held at the Baptist church.
20	**Rolling Calendar** TAT subscription: this has been paid - £4 per member plus £1 per honorary member as at membership levels at close March 31st. **Action 4.20.1:** cross fit insurance renewal: to be removed as no longer relevant **Action 4.20.2:** add reminder in February to check TAM subscriptions
21	**AOB** "The peoples energy briefing" was discussed. This is politically neutral and could be promoted. Need to investigate what is involved in promoting and consider further. **Action: 4.21.1**: Request further information. "Year of reading" being promoted in Monmouth with possible establishment of a "Tale trail" involving displays in shop windows, etc… A new vineyard has been established in/near Raglan and owners are keen to encourage u3a members to tour. Meeting arranged to discuss their proposal.
21	**DONM –** Tuesday 19th May, 11.00am