

## MINUTES

### Craven u3a Executive Committee Meeting

9.00am, Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2024

St Stephen's Church, Skipton

**Present:** Mick Richings (MR), Lesley Perkins (LP), Doug Hirst (DH), Sandra Firm (SF), Kathy Amey (KA), Anne MacDonald (AM), Linda Hoole (LH) via Zoom, Adrienne Gilchrist (AG)

**1. Welcome and apologies for absence:**

Apologies had been received and accepted from Jacqui Eames (JSE) The meeting was moved to Walker's Bakery as the Hall was locked.

**2. Draft minutes from meeting held 24<sup>th</sup> October 2024:**

Accepted as a true record

**3. Actions and any matters arising not covered elsewhere on agenda**

See appendix A

**4. YAHR:**

**a) SGM revised constitution approved, paving the way for applying of charitable status (see YAHR website)**

As the YAHR's income has now met the threshold approval for charitable status can be sought. The new TAT (Third Age Trust) constitution means a reduced board and a council with two members from every region. MR has registered Craven u3a to have a vote and will use the vote to support Brian Cave and Pat Collard who will stand for the region.

**b) Summer School Aug 18<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> 2025 (see website)**

Booking is now available via the YAHR website.

**5. Membership update:**

As at December 1<sup>st</sup> there are 950 members. This gives us the potential to review fees in the future, with a possible reduction.

**6. Beacon Newsletter:**

There are a number of interesting features now on Beacon, with the potential for GLs (Group Leaders) to use them. Craven u3a is following guidelines correctly re accounting for groups which collect money (bird-watching and walking).

**Action: LP will contact national lead on finance to discuss how to account for carried forward balances.**

## 7. Hearing Loss Group – notes from Vera

MR has thanked Vera for her work on improving accessibility for those who are hearing impaired. 19 members had contributed to the discussion. A document is now on the website under Group Leader drop menu and will also be in the December newsletter.

## 8. Feedback from the Regional u3a Group Co-ordinator workshop:

This had been a well-attended and very useful workshop.

- Group attendance registers must be kept for 3 years for insurance purposes. **Action: AM to email GLs with this information.** Beacon provides the facility to download a register. As some GLs are not confident in using Beacon, this will be included on the agenda of the next GLs' meeting in the new year. We will work towards all GLs using Beacon with confidence.
- Succession planning is advised for GLs. **Action: AM to include article in the next newsletter with ideas about sharing responsibilities for group leadership.** It is hoped this will encourage more GLs to come forward.
- YAHR website is open to all members. It includes subject advice. **Action: AM to email all members? GLs?**

## 9. Potential new groups and update on some of our newer groups this current year:

- Art group is doing well
- Members of Popular Music group have arranged to continue to meet in the new year without David Wiseman, who is unable to lead the group at present. They will discuss how to organise and share responsibilities. Agreed to buy a CD player which will be kept at The Three Links Club.
- Mah Jong has had to move to a bigger venue. The group has been encouraged to increase membership size to make the venue more cost-effective.
- There has been a problem with media at St Stephen's; it is potentially solved now. It may be that if the problem continues, we may have to consider buying new equipment.
- The French conversation class has been using one of the new microphones which they found useful. However, the way they have used it has not been efficient for their needs. A multi-directional microphone might be more useful. **Action: DH to investigate.**
- AM will list possible new groups in the January newsletter and hopes for a response for leaders/facilitators, emphasising that WhatsApp groups work well, with a minimum of input from the GL.
- Potential GLs will be invited to the next GLs meeting.
- Padel tennis sessions: £280 for 10 sessions of 90 minutes – available for block booking
- Enquired about Pickle Ball
- Waiting to hear back from Sandylands about walking cricket
- Potential for an 'anyone fancy?' WhatsApp group. i.e. dog-walking group, chess?

- Coach trips could be organised for outings, particularly during the summer, when most groups close down. AM has contacted Bibby's for quotes for journeys of 2 hours each way. LH is hoping to organise a trip to Heysham Nuclear Power Plant as part of the Summer Programme. MR has received potential dates from the Drax Biomass Plant for an outing in August.

#### **10. Venue surcharge review:**

See appendix A

#### **11. Christmas Carol Concert:**

AM is now organising this as Albert Bonham is unable to do so. The service sheets have been printed and delivered. Ken Jackson will be the organist and Chris Scidmore has organised a choir. Members have been asked to donate mince pies for refreshments after the service. **Action: MR to email members with a reminder.**

#### **12. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations:**

Discussion deferred until the new year. It is hoped to offer trips out, and a quiz during the Summer Programme week as part of the celebrations.

#### **13. Groups update:**

See item 9

#### **14. Any other business:**

##### **a) Community Hub:**

Skipton Community Hub has secured the former premises of Craven College in the High Street and will be able to offer rooms and a variety of facilities to local organisations. AM and SF met with Amy on Monday to discuss the potential for Craven u3a to use the facility. There are a number of benefits to securing rooms:

- Potential reduction in costs of hiring venues elsewhere – possibly £10K
- One-off events could be held there
- Could be used as the registered office
- The café will provide refreshments
- The location is convenient for buses, car-parking

It was agreed to investigate this further. SF will book the Community Hub for the next committee meeting and organise a tour of the premises. A decision will need to be made before March, given that next year's programme will be ready by then.

##### **b) Update on visits**

**Heysham** will accommodate maximum of 30. Provisional booking on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025 at 10.00am. Emphasis on fitness (in case of an emergency) and details/ID

(for security). The visit is free of charge. Asked for participants' details by 7<sup>th</sup> January. LH to email asking for extension to deadline. Coach is still to be booked.

**Drax** have offered dates at the beginning of August 2025.

*Post meeting* - Visits are limited to 15 per 2-hour tour. 2-Tours booked Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August 10am – 12pm & 1pm – 3pm.

**Action: LH and MR to continue with planning visits.**

**15. Date & time of next meeting:**

Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 10.00 am – Skipton Community Hub, High Street

**Appendix A**

Item	Who	Actions from committee meeting 24 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
4	AM	Write article for Newsletter to gauge interest in pétanque and padel tennis. <i>Carried forward to the January Newsletter</i>
5	LH All	Add 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations to November's agenda Consider ways to commemorate the event. <i>Actioned but agreed to defer discussion and planning until after Christmas.</i>
6	MR	Contact Barclays re statements to go to LP <i>Actioned</i>
7	LH DH	Confirm dates with Ermysted's and write article about the Summer Programme organisation. <i>Actioned- dates agreed (24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July 2025). Article deferred until January.</i> Investigate communication by generic email re group allocations. <i>Still under discussion. Carried forward</i>
8	AM, LP, SF	Revue venue surcharges before 4.12.24 <i>Actioned. Only one group changed: Music for Fun venue charge reduced to £5</i>
9c	MR	Check if mulled wine can be served. <i>Actioned. The church is happy to have mulled wine served.</i>

## Appendix B

Item	Who	Actions from committee meeting 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2024
4	LH/All	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning on January's agenda Consider ideas for celebrations
4	DH/SF	Discuss efficient way to contact venues, using Beacon
5	LH All	Add 50 <sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations to November's agenda Consider ways to commemorate the event.
6	LP	Contact national lead on finance re carried forward balances.
8	AM	Email GLs re requirement to keep register for 3 years. Write article for January newsletter about group leadership. Inform members/GLs about YAHR website
9	DH	Investigate multi-directional microphone for French conversation group.
11	MR	Email members with a reminder about the carol service and mince pie donations
14b	LH MR	Continue with planning visits to Heysham and Drax