

Minutes of Cowbridge u3a History Group AGM, 15th February 2024

Following the sudden and untimely death of Steve Monaghan on 2nd October 2023, there is no overall leader of the Group. Hywel Davies, Treasurer, led the meeting.

Hywel welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies: Rob and Scylla Cumbes; Jean Carter.

Acceptance of Minutes for 2023 AGM: These minutes had been circulated a year ago, had been on the webpage, and had been re-circulated recently, when members had been asked to read them and note any issues they wished to raise. There were no issues, and the minutes were accepted, proposed by Gwerfyl Gardner and seconded by Pat Smith.

Report of Talks in 2023: Hywel pointed out that they were listed on the webpage if members wished to refer to them.

Accounts: Hywel had recently circulated details of the accounts to members, and they were shown at the meeting on a slide. The income from subscriptions during the last year had been about £600, and the biggest outgoing expenditure was £420 for room hire. This left £180 for payments to speakers, and the traditional Christmas buffet drinks. Hywel praised Steve's past efforts in keeping costs down by negotiating speakers at favourable rates, which has meant we have a surplus of £70 this year. Therefore, Hywel proposed that the Group subscription rate should stay at £10 per annum, the sum already being collected that day, which was accepted by a very large number of those present. Of course, this means that having in-house speakers will facilitate our being able to keep our subscriptions low.

Provisional Organisation: Hywel gave an outline of how the Group is being run, following Steve's death. He praised Steve's leadership, saying we could not replace him, and hence no one person was willing to take over the running of the Group, but a kind of committee had been set up, with several people each taking on a role. These included:

Hywel Davies, Treasurer, ably assisted by wife Fran

Rob Cumbes, Talks' Co-ordinator for 2024, for which there is now a full programme

Jean Carter, Talks' Co-ordinator for 2025, who would welcome ideas

Mary Pugh, monthly e-mail reminders to members

Alison Tinkler, publicity

John Matheson, webpage contact, with Graham Couchman u3a website administrator willing to upload items onto the webpage

John Andrew, Town Hall bookings and willing to assist with IT and fronting meetings occasionally

Gwerfyl Gardner, Norma Roberts and Val Jasinski, willing to assist with front of house tasks

Valerie Monaghan, overall co-ordinator, and willing to front meetings occasionally

Hywel said that this system was working well at present, and it was hoped that eventually an overall leader may emerge.

Trip: Hywel invited Valerie Monaghan to give an outline of a trip she is organising to Chavenage House near Tetbury on 12th September, and for which deposits had already been collected at the meeting.

A.O.B. Hywel thanked all our in-house speakers during the past year for their efforts.

John Andrew said that Hywel had passed the audition brilliantly!

John Matheson suggested that a change of venue, such as Ramoth, could save us money on room hire. Some concerns were raised about slide projection in that venue, but John Andrew was able to allay any fears on that front. There was a concern that car parking would not be so convenient there. Hywel said he would look into the difference in costs for room hire in Ramoth compared to the Town Hall.

Fran Davies thanked Valerie Monaghan for organising another trip.

This business part of the meeting ended at 10.20am, to be followed by a successful 'Show and Tell' session.

Valerie Monaghan

Acting as Minutes' Secretary