

MINUTES OF THE BUSINESS MEETING HELD 5th MAY 2022

Tellervo acting as president.

Apologies: Jane Inman; Judy Davidson; Joan Hetherington; Judith Spencer; Barbara Williams; Sue Mendes; Trish Burgess; Diane Mcracken.

Name badges for new members have arrived and were given out to those present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were agreed. The post of Federation Cons. Counsellor had only one nomination. Joyce Cheney was elected with enthusiasm.

President's report:

We have three signatories for our cheques. Tellervo suggests that routine payments (such as hire of Veeva) can be paid without consultation but unusual payments should be discussed at a business Meeting before payment.

It was agreed the signatories are able to make the club's normal admin payments as long as the admin spend stays within our annual budget.

The signatories are able to make £50 donation from Charity funds to speakers, with the exception of garden scheme speaker which has been agreed to be £60.

If there is a need for other payments or, need to use subs underspend to top up the admin budget or when there are any other charity donations, the decision will be made in a business meeting. If a decision is needed sooner, the exec meeting can make the decision.

Claire suggested that the Executive should be reinstated. Lindsay asked who needs to be on it – and who might also want to be. It was agreed that President (when we have one) Secretary, Treasurer, PA, Membership and Regional Rep should be there. Three meetings a year with the next on the 4th July, followed by one in October. The venue to be decided later.

Treasurer's report:

Partly as a result of the Covid year we have slowly been accumulating money (especially in the subs fund). At present this offers a buffer against hard times. Claire suggested that it could be put to some specific project.

Programme Action:

Judith S was absent but Claire read out a list of the actions we had been involved with last year. A full list will be sent out and members invited to take responsibility for specific topics. Martha pointed out that Ukraine may needs considerable help over the next year. It was agreed that money raised from the clothes sale should be sent via established charities, We know of several people who have offered to host people from Ukraine but have heard nothing from the government.

With respect of supporting Ukraine, we identified a number of options, including donating the money immediately, waiting to see when/where money is needed and contacting Ukrainian clubs to seek advice. We decided that under all scenarios we would only donate via established charities and not e.g. send money overseas ourselves.

Membership:

We have several new members and some more enquiries, probably partly as a result of the display in Station Street. Doreen pointed out that we needed to nurture our new members and not let them become overwhelmed – even if they were willing volunteers.

Fundraising:

The main project is the clothes sale on Saturday. It has been well publicised including by Claire's interview on Radio Cumbria. People attending should remember to register their car details inside or they will receive a large fine. The railings at the front of URC will be decorated and Claire will print and laminate some signs.

Comms and web-site:

There will be a fuller report at the next Business Meeting. Minutes of the AGM are already on the web-site.

Development.

Nothing to report yet but Lindsay will send out the previous report.

Welfare:

Judith has sent a card to Anne Dick whose brother has died.

Friendship link:

Nothing to report. Nothing has been heard from Pat Black in Edinburgh, Martha needs to find out who are the links for Austria and North Allerton.

Future Meetings:

19th May – Jackie from Cumbria Community Foundation.

9th June – National Gardens Scheme.

23rd June – Follow up on Cumbria Community Foundation meeting.

AOB

Claire drew attention to various events which she had notified by email. Lowca School is hoping to attract a governor and wondered if anyone was interested. Karen had a piece of information which raised a laugh and may (or may not have encouraged applications!) Claire will send out the information she was sent.

Ros drew attention to various sustainable products. SMOL delivers by post non-biological laundry capsules and dishwasher tablets. Also cleaning products which can be added to water. She can 'refer a friend' if anyone wants. She also drew attention to BAM bamboo leisure wear and to companies (Fat Face, M&S, Rohan and probably others) which will take back and find new uses for their clothes. Alpkit also takes and repairs damaged or old outdoor products.

FINALLY Tellervo announced that she will shortly become a UK citizen!