

ACTION

Present: Penny Earle, Chair; Sue Pollard, Vice Chair; Richard Bosworth, Treasurer; Evelyn McManus, Secretary; Neil Sutherland, Membership; Joy Sullivan, Groups Coordinator; Rosemary Young, Speakers; Jim McManus, Newsletter

Apologies: Graham Cameron, Vice Chair

Minutes

- December minutes were approved with no amendments.
- Penny thanked Evelyn for taking the minutes.

Matters Arising

- **Publicity leaflet:**
 - Penny reported that she, Sue and Evelyn favoured a personalised Oban trifold rather than overprinting the national leaflet, which did not allow much space for local information.
 - Cost for printing 500 copies locally at Digital Kangaroo would be £147 vs £94 at the Brand Centre, but Richard confirmed that we had the funds to go ahead, since there was over £700 profit this year. The expenditure was then approved by the committee.
 - The leaflet was currently being drafted and Penny, Sue and Evelyn would get together as soon as possible to progress further. The final draft would then be circulated to the rest of the committee for correction of errors only, not general comment.
 - Graham had emailed concerns to Penny about using the approved colours, fonts etc, and Evelyn assured the committee that these had already been considered and incorporated.
 - Leaflets will be distributed to the surgery, library, Atlantis, Dove Centre, Rockfield Centre and the outlying areas and it was agreed that we should purchase some small leaflet holders to display them.
 - Neil will ask Graham to add a 'Where did you hear about us?' section on the membership form at a convenient time if editing the form.
- **Oban Times article:**
 - Penny and Joy have put together an article for the 9th January edition.
 - Penny advised she would be submitting the article on the morning of the 8th – the date requested by the Oban Times.
- **Deceased members policy:**
 - It was agreed by the committee that refunds of membership fees will not be offered to families of deceased members.
 - Deceased members will be removed from Beacon and the badges box immediately.
- **Facebook handover**
 - Due to the logistics of handover, Graham had not been able to take over publicity for the Facebook pages yet, but Sue had incorporated the suggestions from last month's meeting into the announcements for the January meeting.
 - Margaret Batty to be removed from Facebook page admin.

Neil/
Graham

Penny

Graham/
Sue

Graham/
Sue

ACTION

- **The Rockfield Centre**

- Does not currently have a hearing loop, but are hoping to have a budget to purchase one soon, so may possibly have something in place by the time of our meetings.

Groups

- Four new groups now set up: Ukulele, Reading Group 4, Jane Austen and Art Visits:
 - RA completed for Ukulele group use of Congregational Hall.
 - Reading Group 4 will have their first meeting on 23rd January at 2pm and will discuss the genre at that meeting. Group Convenor will be Mandy Bosworth-Jones and Joy will do communications since there are only five in the group.
 - Rosemary Power is group convenor of Jane Austen talk/discussion group, which starts on Wednesday 15th January at 4pm and will run for seven weekly sessions. There are currently five members.
 - Planning currently underway for Art Visits group visit to Kelvingrove on Friday 28th February.
 - Joy will ask group convenors to review membership lists and check updates have been made during January, to tie in with Oban u3a publicity.

Joy

Membership

- We now have 154 members, with two new members and one deceased since December's meeting.
- It was agreed that Neil would set up a new members category called Consultant Members for the native speakers helping our language groups. We will pay £4 to HQ to cover basic membership and insurance costs and they will be added to the Beacon mailing list, but if they wanted to join any other groups, they would have to pay the full membership fee of £20.
- Neil to message Tony and Graham to tell them of the decision.

Neil

Neil

Treasurer

- The accounts have been posted in Dropbox.
- There are no problems to report, we are in profit with no issues.
- For the end of half year report, information still needed from Science, Table Tennis and the people providing accommodation for Bridge.

Speakers

- David Hughes will speak on his trip to Botswana and Namibia at the June meeting and Bob McCulloch will give his Photographs of Old Oban presentation in May.
- Rosemary is now starting to line up speakers for the 25/26 year: potentials so far include Bob Lightfoot (former teacher at the high school) on his trek to the Pole and Rosemary Power on folklore and life in rural Iceland before

tourism. Since Rosemary has recently given a talk, it was proposed to position her talk later into the year.

- Joy will have a think about a local artist to approach as a speaker to vary the talk themes, since Rosemary is keen not to include too many travel talks.

Newsletter content

- Jim asked the committee for feedback, either from themselves or things they had heard from members regarding length, content or layout.
- Evelyn had previously suggested doing a regular in-depth feature on one specific group monthly, but due to the amount of time required to do this, it was agreed that maybe an occasional feature would be more appropriate.
- The committee confirmed they liked the current format and their feedback was to continue as is with reports from each group monthly, since it was a good reminder for members of all the groups we offer.
- Jim confirmed he had fixed the problems with the hyperlinks at the top of the page by including all the text contained within the block. Each group name also has a hyperlink.
- Sue thanked Jim for all his work on the newsletter.

Committee recruitment

- We need at least three new members by the start of the 2025-26 year, so the committee discussed approaching specific individual members face to face.
- We can recruit two new members immediately without having to call a general meeting.

Third Age Trust (TAT)

- Penny reported that she had not yet received anything on voting for the Board and Council.

AOCB

- Sue asked Jim what he did with photos received for the newsletter and he confirmed that he transferred them into Google drive. Dot Dahl has sent Penny some photos over 1MB in size; Penny will transfer into Google drive.
- Sue suggested people could have responsibility for individual pages on the website. Chris Adie would be a good person to ask to test it out for Pickleball.
- It was agreed that, since everything was up to date at the moment, there was no need for a February meeting while Penny was on holiday, although Richard will still send out the accounts and Graham will monitor the generic email in Penny's absence.
- Penny will check whether there is a noticeboard at the Rockfield Centre we can use for March and May (this has since been confirmed) and will also check with Russell at Corran Halls whether we can put a notice up on the door redirecting members to the Rockfield Centre for anyone unaware of the change of venue (this has also since been confirmed and Chris Adie will post

ACTION

Joy

Penny

Sue/Chris

**Richard/
Graham**

Penny

**Penny/
Chris**

ACTION

a notice while the committee are holding their meeting at the Rockfield Centre).

Next Meeting

Tuesday 4th March 2025 at 9.15am in the Oak Room, The Rockfield Centre.

*Minutes taken by Evelyn McManus, Secretary
Minutes approved at March meeting on 4/3/2025*