

**MINUTES OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th NOVEMBER 2016
AT STANTON ON THE WOLDS GOLF CLUB, GOLF COURSE ROAD,
STANTON-ON-THE-WOLDS, NOTTINGHAM, NG12 5BH**

Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances Margaret Taylor arrived late. Stephne Tewson kindly started the minutes so apologies if some items are not shown in the correct order.

	<p><u>IN ATTENDANCE</u> Pat Reeve, Temp. Chairman: Rita Foulkes, Treasurer: (Arrived late), Margaret Taylor, Temp. Secretary: (Arrived late), Jane Pavier, Regional Trustee: Mandy Topp, Shared Learning Contact: Peter Edge, Web Master: Geoff Belk, Derbyshire: John Lamb (left at lunch time) and John Redshaw, Leicester & Rutland: Sue Hewson, Lincolnshire Group: David Oliver and Bob Price, Lincolnshire East: Bill Rayner, Lincolnshire South: and Stephne Tewson, Northamptonshire and Temp. Assistant Secretary.</p>
ITEM 1	<p>Pat Reeve welcomed everyone to the Meeting. Later in the morning apologies were accepted from Rod Brennan and Judith Hodges, Derbyshire: Richard Johnston, Lincolnshire Group: Jenny Greaves and Liz Wilson, Nottinghamshire.</p>
ITEM 2	<p><u>FEEDBACK FROM AGM 2016</u> Northamptonshire Network gave mandate to dissolve RRC. Most Networks and neighbourhood groups wanted dissolution. Contributions to the East Midlands Association were voluntary and not compulsory. It was suggested that we could ask Michaela Moody or someone on the Governance team to go over our points. GB said there was confusion over Association and the RRC. He said that Derbyshire were thinking of going the same way as Lincolnshire – i.e. rather than Networks have Neighbourhoods and thus each cover a smaller area. ST said that Alan Morris made reference to the fact that if the East Midlands Association/RRC were to be dissolved, it would dissolve the Region. He was told that this was not so as they are two different entities. She also said there were two ladies who had at one time or another served on the RRC but now were no longer part of it, who had “approached” potential voters and had possibly changed their minds on which way to vote. They don’t even attend their Network meetings either.</p>
ITEM 3	<p><u>PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF THE RRC - Where do we go from here?</u> Following the vote at the AGM to keep the RRC going discussions took place on whether the East Midlands Regional Representative Council is still a viable layer in the U3A movement. Most of the Representatives agreed that it was not and at least 3 Networks, at their recent meetings were strongly in favour of it being dissolved. Trying to be practical, it was suggested that information is sent to all U3As giving a reasoned argument for both sides on why the RRC should continue or not. It was also suggested that at the same time a postal vote could be returned to the Secretary within a reasonable timescale to reflect the opinion of every U3A in the Region and to vote on whether it should continue or not. Jane Pavier, Regional Trustee explained that because of the way that the Constitution is worded a postal vote would not be acceptable and that an EGM or AGM would have to be held with the appropriate proposal to close and possible further changes to the Constitution with the required amount of notice be given to all U3A members. To help in this decision Jane Pavier, Regional Trustee was asked to approach Sam Mauger of National Office for any help or advice that she could give which would enable the current Constitution to be over-turned and the dissolution of the RRC to go ahead without either an AGM or EGM. ACTION JP However if National Office cannot offer any advice and the RRC has to continue until an AGM or EGM this would be dependent on the goodwill of the Temporary Officers to stay in post until such time as an AGM could be arranged and to have an injection of cash to cover future expenses.</p>

	<p>When asked, Rita Foulkes confirmed she would remain as Treasurer and will continue in the role in the future, Pat Reeve, Margaret Taylor and Stephne Tewson agreed to stay in their temporary roles until the matter of the RRC is eventually resolved in early 2017.</p> <p>Re money being available it was noted that some of the member U3As had already paid their contribution to the Region but some had not. RRC Members felt that this was unfair on the U3As who had already paid. Therefore they asked that the Treasurer, with the help of Margaret contact all U3A Treasurers in the Region via the County Contacts, who had not paid and ask them to make a voluntary contribution for the current year in line with the others. ACTION RF/MT</p> <p>It was also agreed that a short statement be sent to all U3As in the East Midlands via the County Contacts informing them of the outcome of this meeting. Margaret and Stephne agreed to collaborate on this, circulate to all RRC Members and then send out as soon as possible with responses coming back to the Secretary in January. ACTION ST/MT</p> <p>Margaret also agreed to do a time-line and update any information which needed to be sent out to the U3As. ACTION MT</p>
ITEM 4	<p><u>TO CONFIRM & APPROVE MINUTES 06.07.16. WITH ANY MATTERS ARISING</u></p> <p>Item 6: RF explained that due to the previous Treasurer not giving a proper handover confirming that DK had been asked to “examine” the amounts and being unable to contact her RF had been obliged to do her own set of accounts and had asked someone else to “examine” them. In essence this year’s accounts were examined twice.</p> <p>The Minutes were agreed and Pat Reeve signed them.</p> <p>RRC passed a Vote of Thanks to the previous Chairman and Secretary.</p>
ITEM 5	<p><u>TREASURER’S REPORT</u></p> <p>RF updated the RRC Members and confirmed the balance in the account as at £1,974.64p as at 24th October. There is still £960 to come out of the account for the Conference Fees. A statement is expected to be received shortly. RF confirmed that 35 U3As had not paid with 2 U3As having now withdrawn. RF to contact Treasurers to confirm payment or request that they send their contribution by the end of March – see above Item 3.</p> <p>PE confirmed the cost for the web site of £30.75p had been paid to the end of June 2017. However if the Web Site was to continue he recommended that a “free” alternative be found.</p> <p>Thanks were given to RF for running the AGM so well in exceptional circumstances.</p>
ITEM 6 A	<p><u>REGIONAL TRUSTEE’S REPORT</u></p> <p>JP had attended NEC Meeting at the end of October when the Beacon Systems was talked about. Many U3As are using the full or partial system now. However members were not happy about the charges 50p per person per year especially as it was advertised as a “free” service. A professional company may be asked to look after this system in the future as it contains personal data and needs to be secure. However no decision has been made. Discussion took place on how to get the idea out to all U3As and it was suggested that all Networks and Neighbourhoods ask for a Regional Expert to come and talk to them.</p> <p>Further information can be obtained by googling “U3ABeacon” and U3As can find out more about the system by registering onto the demonstration site which is not a live site. The link is https://demo.u3abeacon.org.uk/betaregister.php.</p> <p>JP is now on the Standing Committee for Education and spoke about the Sources Magazine as the new Editor is trying to update the subject information. JP will check that all subject advisers are given out correct advice when contacted.</p> <p>JP also spoke about “virtual” U3As which are aimed at members who cannot attend meetings for whatever reason and instead use their computers for Groups etc.</p> <p>It had also been noted that there were fewer new U3As launched this year. This should be a priority in getting new U3As to open in 2017 and beyond.</p> <p>Thanks were given to JP for her continued support to the RRC.</p>

ITEM 6 B	<p><u>WEB MASTER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>PE had looked at other Regional Web Sites and noted that most are using "Site Builder" which is a free site. As the present Web Site is tailored specifically to the East Midlands so RRC agreed that if necessary £30 be set aside to pay for a further year and PE agreed to continue maintaining it for that period. However he did suggest that another person may be willing to take over from him and go forward with "Site Builder" and getting information transferred across.</p> <p>To go on to the next Agenda.</p>
ITEM 6 C	<p><u>REPORT FROM DERBYSHIRE – GEOFF BELK</u></p> <p>A report had been circulated (on file) and GB expanded on its content explaining the workshop down for November is to be in June 2017 and that 2 new U3As are being discussed.</p>
ITEM 6 D	<p><u>REPORT FROM LEICESTER & RUTLAND – JOHN REDSHAW</u></p> <p>A report re Calke Abbey Study Day had been circulated (on file).</p>
ITEM 6 E	<p><u>REPORT FROM LINCOLNSHIRE GROUP – SUE HEWSON</u></p> <p>SH gave a verbal update on a recent event at Navenby which raised a surplus of £187 which was donated to the Air Ambulance. Full information is on file.</p>
ITEM 6 F	<p><u>REPORT FROM LINCOLNSHIRE SOUTH – BILL RAYNER</u></p> <p>They had recently held a meeting where the RRC discussion dominated. They share good practices and lessons learnt. They are to arrange a workshop on "Well Being".</p>
ITEM 6 G	<p><u>REPORT FROM LINCOLNSHIRE EAST – DAVID OLIVER</u></p> <p>DO commented on their meetings becoming stale and the problem of getting members to send in written reports. DO asked RRC about Interest Groups "crossing" borders. RRC members already doing this informed him of the reciprocal arrangements that they had in place and providing that all U3As were in agreement and had "signed up" to the arrangement and obviously if there were available places in the Group then this could happen.</p> <p>He also posed the question of why the zeal to have more and more U3As. RRC answered that only a small percentage of the population had heard of the U3A. Perhaps this could change with future generations but at the moment there is a market out there which could benefit people perhaps by reducing loneliness and fulfilling their potential. The question of how the U3A is seen by ethnic minorities and how can they be invited into the U3A movement. JP is willing to take any suggestions forward.</p>
ITEM 6 H	<p><u>REPORT FROM NOTTINGHAMSHIRE – MARGARET TAYLOR</u></p> <p>A short verbal report was given. The Network endorsed the closure of the RRC.</p> <p>There is a possible new U3A opening in the Mansfield Woodhouse area in 2017. "The Park" U3A has recently been launched. There is an agreed "Consultation" process for new U3As. Lack of Communication was found to be a problem and therefore the Network intends to invite a member of the National Office to come with ideas on how to improve this.</p>
ITEM 6 I	<p><u>REPORT FROM NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – PAT REEVE</u></p> <p>The Network had formally agreed that the RRC should be dissolved.</p> <p>They held a very successful "Speaker Seeker" Workshop and a county visit to Drayton House both of which were well attended. A "Publicity" workshop is being planned for 2017. There are other county visits being organised for next year as well.</p>
ITEM 6 J	<p><u>REPORT FROM SHARED LEARNING CO-ORDINATOR - MANDY TOPP</u></p> <p>Mandy spoke of the potential shared learning project in Spalding and the recent one on the Holocaust Centre in Nottinghamshire.</p>

ITEM 7	<p><u>FEEDBACK FROM CONFERENCE 2016</u></p> <p>JP said that the majority of members attending had found this Conference to be excellent with a great venue being well looked after from beginning to end. Unfortunately one of the speakers had to drop out at the last minute but the replacement was very good. It was noticed that as both speakers came from within the U3A what talent can be found in our own backyard. JP has looked at the survey reports which seem to reflect the above. There was a question on the “breakout” groups and what they were about? It was felt that there was no clarity, too many options were given and there was insufficient time to complete.</p> <p>Suggestions were given for the future:-</p> <p>“Encouraging new members”</p> <p>“Spreading the Word”</p> <p>“New Groups – How to encourage people to take responsibility”</p> <p>“Communication”</p> <p>“How to get through to a small group as being part of a larger organisation”</p> <p>“Look outwards – being fully involved”.</p> <p>JP will take these forward for consideration at the next Conference.</p>
ITEM 8	<p><u>2017 CONFERENCE</u></p> <p>Discussion took place on which area in the Region will be helping to host the next Conference. Leicester agreed and together with JP a date will be agreed and a venue booked. ACTION JP/LEICESTER</p> <p>MT agreed to look at past Conferences for their themes and who had helped and circulate the information. ACTION MT</p>
ITEM 9	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p>a) <u>Chairman’s On line Survey.</u> Networks and Neighbourhoods need to clarify that all Chairman had taken part.</p> <p>b) <u>3 Year Plan.</u> JP and MT will update and circulate to RRC Members.</p> <p>c) <u>Records.</u> RRC agreed that the Accounts need to be kept for the last 6 years and “signed” minutes for the last 3 years. It was felt that it was not necessary to carry any excessive information on file.</p>
ITEM 10	<p><u>DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT MEETING</u></p> <p>It was agreed that the Golf Club had proved to be an excellent Venue and thanks was given to Peter Edge to pass on to the Staff. It was confirmed that the next meeting would be held at the same place on Wednesday 1st March, meeting at 10.00am for refreshments with a start time of 10.30am.</p>

Signed.....Chairman Date.....2017

ACTION POINTS	AGENDA ITEM	OUTCOME
Jane	3 – To Contact Sam Mauger for help & advice	
Stephne/ Margaret	3 – Prepare Statement for all U3As	COMPLETED & CIRCULATED
Margaret	3 – Prepare Time-line for RRC Representatives	COMPLETED & CIRCULATED
Rita	3 – Via the County Contacts, to contact all U3A Treasurers asking for a voluntary contribution if they have not already done so.	COMPLETED & CIRCULATED
Jane/Leicester	8 – Book date and venue for 2017 Conference	
Margaret	8 – List of past Conferences	COMPLETED & CIRCULATED