



## Minutes of Perth u3a Committee Meeting

Held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10am in Unit 7

### Present

Robert Proctor (chair)	RP	Wilma Coleman	WC
Bill Younger	BY	Sue Hendry	SH
Irene Twinn	IT	Dave Smith	DS
Yvonne Connell	YC	Trevor Abell	TA
Graham Dry	GD		

### 1. Apologies

Joan Fraser, Ray Hodgson

### 2. Approval of Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved – proposed by GD, seconded by TA.

### 3. Matters Arising

Perth u3a anniversary tapestry – YC reported that it's generally in good condition but requires a couple of minor repairs. Dorothy Traynor, who offered to make any required repairs, has yet to respond to YC's email regarding delivering the tapestry to her home. A suitable wall for its display has been identified in Unit7 and, once the tapestry is repaired, arrangements will need to be made with our Unit7 landlords to hang it. **Action: YC to phone Dorothy**

Red Cross first aid workshops – only 2 people have expressed interest, one of whom has since withdrawn.

Discount deals at Perth cinema/Bothy restaurant – GD reported little interest from members in this, so will not be submitting a paper to the Committee.

### 4. Admin Matters

#### a) Treasurer's report (IT)

IT reported that the main bank account now stands at over £19,000, which includes a further donation of £500 from Riviera Travel. Membership numbers are now over target, further contributing to the healthy financial position.

Registration Day cash handling – IT had difficulties in depositing the cash at the bank, due to a bank holiday and a subsequent error by the bank. These were resolved, but the issues highlighted a weakness in our cash deposit procedures. IT will tighten these up in future to ensure a more robust audit trail.

### **b) Group Co-ordinator's Report (RH)**

*(provided by email)*

- The Tai Chi group acquired a further 25 members at Registration Day, bringing numbers to 60 and making it the largest Perth u3a group.
- The Inch Walkers membership now stands at 26, which represents a notable recovery given that the group almost closed last year. Depending on actual attendance, the Group Leader may decide to form an overflow group.
- The Committee has approved 2 new groups – French conversation 2 and German.
- RH is in early discussion with a member over the possible formation of a Cycling Group. **Action: YC to check insurance policy (update – policy checked and, to the best of YC's understanding, we have liability cover up to £5 million).**

WC & IT will be forming a second Mah Jong group, to meet in Unit 7 on Friday pm week 1.

### **c) Membership Report**

DS provided statistics on new members and renewals. A full report accompanies these Minutes, but to note that there are now 453 paying members and one honorary member.

GD raised an issue whereby non-renewing members are still active on Beacon and therefore receive his email invitations to u3a social events, which may mislead them regarding their eligibility. On the basis that they will have already received sufficient reminders to renew, DS will lapse their membership on Beacon so that they don't receive any subsequent emails addressed to the membership.

WC noted a new member who joined on the basis that, as he qualifies for government benefits, his membership fee would be paid by the council. There's been no success in following this up with PK Council. WC has handed the details of this issue to DS in case it should arise again.

RP and DS noted ongoing communication issues with a member who has become quite demanding and demonstrative despite best efforts to provide the information and support she has asked for. No further action agreed.

### **d) Accommodation Co-ordinator's Report (WC)**

Blackout blinds/curtains for Unit 7 – WC reported zero progress with landlords.  
**DS volunteered to obtain costings for a potential solution.**

Parking – u3a members should not park at the Mustard Seed, as it prevents their customers from parking there. **YC to include in News Update.**

### **5. Dogs at Inch Walkers Group (BT)**

A couple of group members have asked if they could bring dogs to this walking group (the general rule for walking groups is that dogs are not allowed, due to the risk to livestock and difficulties with car sharing). BT has established that insurance is in place to cover this, so long as dogs are kept on a lead. The Committee approved the request on this basis, and BT will undertake the appropriate risk assessment prior to putting the new policy into action.

### **6. New members welcome (RP)**

*(Carried over from previous meeting).* There used to be a Committee member assigned specifically to 'look after' new members. However, it was felt that DS and RH between them cover this role, including a new members guide sent to everyone who joins. In addition, it was agreed that new members should be encouraged to attend the first Open meeting. At the end of that meeting, the Chair will hold a short welcome session for new members.

### **7. Volunteer recruitment (JF)**

*(provided by email)*

There are now 7 volunteers, including 2 Committee members. For Open Meetings, JF proposed that 2 volunteers stand at the front door to welcome members, and check the back door occasionally. She also suggested 2 desks for registration in order to reduce congestion, but the Committee felt that this could add complexity to managing the registers. All agreed, however, that members can be missed, so **a reminder to register will be included in the next News Update.**

Registration at Open Meetings is partly for the benefit of the fire safety, though we are not clear on what St Matthew's requirements are in this respect. **Action: WC to obtain St Matthew's Fire Safety policy/procedures.**

### **7. AOB**

GD:

- We've recently been contacted by someone keen to offer a 1 hour talk with slides etc on G & S (Gilbert and Sullivan operas etc). GD has explained that all Open Meetings talks are booked for this year, so this talk

would need to wait until next year – though RP noted that G&S has not been a popular choice for Open Meetings in the past. **RP will poll the Listening to Opera group to gauge their interest.**

- Quiz night (Mon 23 Oct) – a good response has been received, and GD is now aiming for 10 teams of four. He has had a trophy made, which can be used in subsequent years. Set up of the room will need to be done quickly due to the room only becoming available 30 minutes before the event starts, so volunteers are needed to assist. RP & SH volunteered.
- Christmas lunch – 55 members have signed up, with room for up to 70 if needed. The date clashes with the Lunch Group, but GD has declined to reschedule and thus lose the Black Watch Museum booking as it's a very good venue. Due to the numbers attending, it was agreed that tickets be sold in advance at Open Meetings in order to avoid a long queue/wait to pay at the venue on the day. **WC to oversee (?)**

YC reported that 35 u3a diaries have now been purchased, and these will be passed onto David Thistlethwaite for sale at Open Meetings. The price had been agreed at £4 but the total cost is more than anticipated due to delivery costs, meaning the sale price may need to be increased a little, at David's discretion.

**Editor's note: David has agreed with RP to keep the price at £4 due to difficulties handling cash payments requiring change in pence.**

WC noted that there is now a wheelchair at the entrance to the Unit 7 building, for anyone who needs it.

RP will be attending the forthcoming Third Age Trust AGM on 18 October (online).

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday 24 October 2023 at 10am in Unit 7.**