



Washington Village U3A Committee, Stella Maris

10.00am – 17<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Attending: Derek Ginsberg (Chair), Carolyn Baxter, Lyn Bossons, Helen Edwards, Sandra Graham, Catherine Hambley, Maggie Hope, Tania LeMarinel, Julie Stevens,

23.100 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

23.101 Apologies

Pauline Palmer, Chris Scorer, Marilyn Ward

23.102 Acceptance of the minutes, with the amendment of minor errors, of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023, was proposed by Lyn Bossons, seconded by Julie Stevens and approved by all.

23.103 Matters Arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda:

23.67 Chris to contact the third Age Trust in respect of the constitution and voting has been **resolved**.

22.68 The updating of the Gmail accounts of Catherine and Chris have been **resolved**.

23.89 Speaker Secretary's Report. In relation to a speaker from the Chinese community to give a talk on Chinese New Year next year, Carolyn has been unsuccessful in contacting anyone.

**Resolved:** Lyn to contact Newcastle u3a in respect of a possible speaker on Chinese New Year.

**Resolved:** Carolyn to email speaker details to Lyn

23.95 It/Website Update

Note that the welcome video on our website is now out of date and suggested that the slideshow from monthly meetings could replace the video.

**Resolved** within this agenda (24.11)

23.96 Environment Update

**Resolved** Derek has sent out reminder email in respect of members bringing their own cups.

**Resolved** Helen has passed Laura's details to Carolyn

23.97 Tudor Costume Talk

Discussed within this agenda.

**Closed** Carolyn to forward information to Catherine for forwarding to Julia

23.99(a) Christmas Party Food

**Resolved** Tania has confirmed availability and prices for Christmas meeting catering.

23.104 Membership Secretary's Report

Four members joined this month making a total of 246 members. 93 attended the August meeting. Group leaders to be informed of the process for new members joining via a group, which requires group leaders to inform either Julie or Lyn so that the new members can be covered within the insurance. A possible addition on the group webpage could be a link to the home page for membership information.

**Action: Sandra to inform group leaders of the process for new members joining u3a through groups**

23.105 Speaker Secretary's Report

September speaker has cancelled. Durham Wildlife Trust can provide a speaker but have not yet confirmed. Laura at Campground has been contacted but no response to date. Carolyn to pass details to Helen who will try to contact Laura directly. There has been no response as yet from the Chinese community contacts. Ian McIntosh has been suggested as a possible alternative entertainment in view of his skills. Lyn to speak with Ian as to his availability.

23.106 Group Co-ordinator's Report

Guitar and harmonica will commence on 20<sup>th</sup> September for ten weeks. It is understood the Black Bush is a likely free venue. Spanish will take place on second and fourth Mondays of each month commencing from 25<sup>th</sup> September at the Millenium Centre. Sandra has emailed group leaders in respect of group demos at November meeting but has received only two responses so will contact individual group leaders for further information. Suggestions for demos include environment quiz; kurling; bowling; line dancing etc. although not all will be active demos, some are possibly equipment or video display. As there are 30+ groups, it is suggested that there is a general group leader meeting at noon on 19<sup>th</sup> October at the Stella immediately after the committee meeting at 11am so that all group leaders have underpinning knowledge prior to the group showcase. A buffet will be available for them at noon.

**Action: Sandra to advise group leaders of the 19<sup>th</sup> October meeting.**

**Action: Tania to book buffet for group leaders and the committee**

#### 23.107 Treasurer's Report

The July Report was noted with thanks. Finances are doing well. TAT and the CLA licence have been paid. Flowers to the outgoing Stella management were appreciated. Regional legacy funds were remaining funds from the closure of two u3a's. The total funds were equally split with all u3a's in the region. Noted that we have comfortable reserves.

#### 23.108 PR Update

Nothing to report. Noted that 16-24 September is u3a week.

#### 23.109 Regional and Network Update

Nothing to report.

#### 23.110 Members Liaison Report

One card sent out.

#### 23.111 IT/Website Update

New video is now online, with thanks to Tania and Lyn. As yet no date is confirmed for the move to the new system.

#### 23.112 Environment Update

The environment webpage has been updated. Approximately 50% of members at the last monthly meeting brought their own cups, so it is an improving picture. Helen is currently contacting the council to ask if they have leaflets on recycling.

#### 23.113 Tudor Costume Talk

No response has been received from Julia on the proposed Tudor Costume Talk, until this changes, this item is closed.

#### 23.114 Tenth Anniversary

An email has now been sent to members in respect of ideas for the tenth anniversary celebrations. Ideas include demos from various groups including Ukelele; Disabilities; and a May Ball; Ceilidh and Old Hall picnic. All suggestions are being included. Noted That in the same year, Washington celebrated fifty years of the Galleries and sixty years of the New Town. Decorations for the Stella and a cake for the monthly meeting of the celebration meeting are also being considered.

23.115 Tickets, similar to last years, are to be printed for the Christmas Meeting with a suggested cost of £3.00 per ticket. A cold buffet will be chosen once the caterers' menu is released. The Speaker will talk on the topic of Christmas Around the World. A Xmas Quiz, possible music and a tombola, with raffle tickets on the prizes for collection are also being considered.

23.116 There were a lot of discussion around safeguarding, particularly in relation to our more vulnerable members, with the Fording Bridge Agreement selected.

23.117 Any other business

(a) Microphone

Lyn has received a simple mechanical strip microphone holder, which fits around the neck. The intention is to try it out on the line dancing group in September and again at the September meeting with the speaker being asked to use it.

(b) Christmas music

Ken Tong to be asked if he is available to perform at our Christmas meeting.

**Action: Catherine to contact Ken re availability**

(c) September Committee Secretary

Catherine will unfortunately be unavailable to support the committee meeting in September, another committee member volunteer to be sought for that month.