



Washington Village U3A Committee, Stella Maris

10.00am – 16th February 2023

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

23.14 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

23.15 Apologies

None

23.16 Acceptance of the minutes, with the correction of minor typos, of 19th January 2023, was proposed by Pauline Palmer, seconded by Sandra Graham and approved by all.

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

22.163: Resolved: Sandra to send an email to group leaders to explain contingency planning, and asking them to consider how they provide a contingency plan for the monthly meeting.

22.165: Resolved: Catherine to speak to Ken Tong to see if he could advise on alternative speakers for our systems. Noted that William will attend March meeting to review the current system and advise on how to move forward.

23.12 Resolved: Constitutional update at last meeting suggested the return to the previously normal practice of May AGM.

23.13(a) Resolved: Tea/coffee are to be served at the beginning of the next monthly meeting with appropriate alterations to the normal schedule. It was noted that the change to the tea schedule was considered very successful. The biscuits are to continue to be put out on tables and tea volunteers to be reminded not to begin clearing up until after the speaker has concluded.

Resolved: Derek to send email to membership advising of the change to the normal scheduled meeting arrangements.

Action: It is agreed that the speaker commencement time in future monthly meetings are to be put back by 15 minutes to 11.15 to permit time for membership to chat.

23.18 Membership Secretary's Report

Four new members joined at the last meeting. Currently there are 216 members.

23.19 Speaker Secretary's Report

Over the last four weeks the old speaker list has been shredded and a new list moved onto Google Cloud so the proposed separate u3a email is now welcomed. The speaker at the AGM will be a music group. They will be performing at 11.30. Bunting, flags, and possible cupcakes instead of biscuits will also be present to celebrate King Charles' coronation. A congratulations card will also be forwarded to Buckingham Palace on our behalf. The Christmas entertainment should also be sought now.

Action: Pauline to send card to Buckingham Palace

Action: Tania to investigate union jack cupcakes for May meeting

23.20 Group Co-ordinator's Report

Line dancing group meets for the first time next week at the Stella. Cost to the Stella is £20 per session and payment arrangements are being finalised. Pickleball starts on Wednesday 1st March in the morning, with John Sutton as group leader. Noted the leisure centre is closed during February half term. A possible speaker for the environment group is currently being explored by Helen. Board Games will meet the fourth Thursday of the month at 1.30pm. CAMEO has had its first meeting which went well with 37 attendees and a possible 16 other persons who may attend the next meeting. Three men attended the first meeting and ideas from them are being explored. CAMEO is also set up as a facebook community page. Other suggestions included a Murder Mystery event. Kurling has a few names on the waiting list so there is a possibility of a second group. Thanks to Helen for a useful group activity spreadsheet. Chris is proposing a strolling group around Washington with a coffee stop at the end.

23.21 Treasurer's Report.

The verified monthly report was received. A new column had been added to indicate individual group balances at the end of the previous financial year, in order to keep the committee better informed. Proposal 1 is to change the u3a fee for new members joining in February/March was discussed in order to make it fairer to all by removing the ambiguity currently in place. Pauline proposed acceptance, seconded by Tania and agreed by all. Proposal 2, to purchase Pickleball materials at £120 which would be

refundable by a slightly higher subscription was considered, but noted that a community chest grant has been orally advised with final agreement due this week. Should this be confirmed, a slightly lower subscription may be possible.

Action: Sandra to send email to group leaders reminding them that members are listed in Beacon and new group members membership can be checked.

23.22 Galleries Event 25th April

The event will take place 900-1300 on Tuesday 25th April with tables available from the Galleries plus an additional one from Lyn. The original six groups as previously agreed would be represented, sashes would be available for all volunteers.

23.23 PR Update Network Report

Funding for the public relations event at a cost of £201+VAT was agreed. This funding would purchase posters, postcard sized handouts and a customised table cover. Lyn proposed acceptance, Derek seconded with unanimous agreement.

23.24 Network and Regional Report

A zoom meeting took place several weeks ago, mostly recruitment and retention subjects. Wordpress for the website was discussed with TAT providing training if required. Regional plan was presented with various talks of TAT activity with an emphasis on the learning side of u3a activity. TAT will also give 18 months notice of any rise in TAT subscriptions. Our u3a focusses more on social activity which is more caring of the relevant age group in our deprived area, hence our large membership, however learning is considered inherent in some of our activities. Our u3a is similar to others in our area in respect of recruitment of committee members as currently Peterlee has closed and Cestria is at risk of closure.

23.25 Member's Liaison Report

One card sent out.

23.26 IT/Website Report

The committee was informed a proper IT strategy was required in respect of storage. To that end, role specific emails are suggested as a strategy to build organisational memory. One storage account would be useful but a sub-committee is required to discuss this proposal in more detail. The proposed method is to set up role specific emails which will be transferable as the persons for each role change.

23.27 First Aid

It is considered that first aiders would be a useful addition to the membership in view of the size of our meetings and ages of the membership.

Action: Derek to send out email to the membership asking if anyone is a current first aider or interested in receiving first aid training.