



Washington Village U3A Committee, Stella Maris

10.00am – 18th January 2024

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

24.01 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

24.02 Apologies

Sandra Graham, Chris Scorer

24.03 Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 16th November 2023, was proposed by Lyn Bossons, seconded by Tania leMarinel and approved by all.

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

23.67 Third Age Trust in respect of the Constitution remains ongoing.

Resolved: Document sent to Third Age Trust who has approved changes.

23.150 Membership Secretary's Report

Four new members have joined making a total of 257 members. Noted that 104 members attended the last meeting. Noted that the online page states that guests may attend one meeting and one group free of charge. This is incorrect as the guest should pay the same group fee as other participants. There was further discussion on the possible limitation of u3a membership for Washington Village u3a, however it was decided to leave this topic for another day.

Resolved: Helen to amend wording on the u3a webpage and group pages to indicate only the monthly meeting is free to attend as a guest.

23.151 Speaker Secretary's Report

Bernard Hope is confirmed as the January speaker; Keep Washington Tidy confirmed for February; May is AGM; June is Washington's 60th anniversary and July US Independence Day.

Resolved: Carolyn to send B Hope's details to Tania for advertising

24.05 Membership Secretary's Report

12 new members have joined u3a which increases our total membership to 268.

24.06 Speaker Secretary's Report

Speakers are booked through until July. February and March speaker information has been forwarded for advertising. The April meeting will host the long-awaited Tudor Talk. It is requested that the speaker have close vehicular access to the hall to bring in costumes. Noted that April is renewal month with the AGM in May.

24.07 Group Co-ordinator's Report

Board Games members informed of the Group now located at the Cross Keys. Friday Night Diners is now led by Geoff Craggs. Four members have expressed interest in Advanced Spanish which is led by Crispin Welby, with an initial meeting being organised. My Generation Music Group has 17 members interested, George Dickey and Elaine Baker are administering and a WhatsApp group is being set up to arrange an initial meeting. Ian Macintosh is leading Beginners Guitar and Jamming Sessions Group and is exploring potential venues. Tai Chi cancelled 8th January meeting due to tutor illness and noted that membership numbers have improved. The group interest sheet at the monthly meeting is popular so will continue to be set out. At the next monthly meeting members will be reminded that they must join the u3a if they wish to join an interest group. This is to be reiterated at the new member's table.

24.08 Treasurer's Report

Report is noted. A healthy current reserve of £3,800 is noted. The Charity Commission return outlining income and expenditure for 22/23 has been completed and returned. The move to Lloyds Bank from Barclays is progressing as we are still in the 30-day set-up period and is expected to be complete by end of January or beginning of February. Once confirmed, Lyn will email the membership to advise not to bank any further monies at Barclays as that account will close.

24.09 PR Update

Nothing to report.

24.10 Regional and Network Update

Network December meeting was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions. Regional meeting will be held on Thursday 25th January, however Derek is unable to attend and has sent apologies.

24.11 Members Liaison Report

No cards have been forwarded this month.

24.12 IT/Website Update

Nothing to report. Noted that our welcome page/video still refers to retirement so will require amendment to reflect the current attitude.

24.13 Environment Update

Nothing to report.

24.14 Monthly Meetings

(a) Christmas meeting review

Total income was £616.00, total outgoings £1435.08 therefore the committee subsidised the event by £819.08. 123 members attended. There was a 30% increase on costs from last year. Sheila's Kitchen provided the individually packed food which received many compliments. The speaker feedback was rather disappointing with general feedback indicating that music is preferred to a speaker. There was some confusion over distribution of vegetarian meals which next year could be resolved by placing individual names on them which could then be announced for personal collection. The additional committee subsidised cost for the food was considered good value.

(b) Stella Heating

The issue of the heating of monthly meetings is to be raised with the Stella management by Derek and Lyn

Action: Derek and Lyn to speak with Stella management in respect of heating

(c) Teas/Coffees

Tea and coffee volunteers remain an ongoing issue as few members are willing to volunteer, tea and coffee may be discontinued if this situation continues.

(d) AGM/10th Anniversary

The committee members are asked to consider if they are remaining or departing from the committee, with an announcement to be made at next meeting. The running order will be AGM followed by 10th anniversary celebrations. No speaker has been booked. Old films from the original setting up of the u3a may be available from Gloria, the founding Chair. It is suggested that previous and current Chairs be asked to meet to discuss the 10th anniversary with the Ukelele group being asked to provide some entertainment with a cake and possibly individual cupcakes available for the membership. Existing u3a bunting could be used for decorations. It may be possible a magician could also be available from the membership.

Action: Tania to seek costing of cake/muffins for the anniversary.

24.15 Fit for the Future

The Third Age Trust five-year plan and how it impacts on u3a at branch level is of concern. A pilot council to potentially set a new level between the regional and national committee. The pilot scheme will be discussed at the next meeting where the debate is the priority of how to promote u3a at the national level.

24.16 Any other business

(a) Northumbria Regional Quiz – the quiz group has five persons interested but four required per team, it is hoped more will volunteer so two teams can enter. Financial support to enter two teams at a cost of £10 is was agreed unanimously by the committee.

(b) U3a Conference in York accommodation is now full, so day trips only possible as there is no overnight accommodation.