



Washington Village U3A Committee, Stella Maris

10.00am – 20<sup>th</sup> July 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,

23.85 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

23.86 Apologies

Marilyn Ward

23.87 Acceptance of the minutes, with the amendment of minor typographical errors, of the meeting of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2023, was proposed by Lyn Bossons, seconded by Sandra Graham and approved by all.

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

23.42 Chris from the walking group is a qualified first aider. The cost of a trainer is approximately £80 per head. Derek to follow up options in respect of first aid. It is now agreed that only essential first aiders are required, therefore Pauline Palmer and Sandra Graham, who have volunteered to be retrained as first aiders will go forward for training. **Resolved.**

23.65 In respect of tree planting in the Village, Lyn has explored costs of planting a tree to mark the tenth anniversary of the u3a. At £350 plus installation costs, it is believed too costly for the u3a to bear alone. The Council Community Chest fund, Washington Bloomers and the Third Age Trust are to be approached for assistance. This item in respect of a tree is now **closed** with later developments within the Tenth Anniversary item within these minutes.

**Closed:** Lyn/Tania to speak to the environmental team from the council, discussed within these minutes.

**Closed:** Derek to contact Len Loughlin in respect of Community Chest.

23.67 Derek has raised the issue of caring cards with membership to ensure no one is missed who should receive one **resolving** this action.

23.67 Chris to contact the third Age Trust in respect of the constitution and voting remains an **ongoing action** as no response has been received from the Trust.

22.68 The updating of the Gmail account of Catherine has been resolved, however that of Chris remains an **ongoing action**.

#### 23.69 Membership Secretary's Report

Three new members have paid via the line dancing group. Discussion with other u3a's have established that associate/affiliate (to be called associate) membership is quite common across the north east, usually in low numbers which cause minimal extra administration. A joint associate membership for couples is also possible. Proof of other u3a membership can be taken on trust. Julie's concerns were noted however Derek proposed acceptance of associate membership, Tania seconded and the proposal was approved by all present. Total membership is now 235.

**Resolved:** Julie to email membership to advise of change.

**Resolved:** Lyn to amend finance policy and membership form to reflect change.

#### 23.70 Group Co-ordinator's Report

Guitar and Harmonica are still running **Resolved:** Sandra has confirmed Harmonica is to continue running until its tenth week when it will close. It is however anticipated to restart as a new group in January 2024.

#### 23.89 Speaker Secretary's Report

August speaker will present a view of Criminal Investigation. September speaker will be Bernard Hope presenting on a North East Double Agent during World War 2. The Manzini Project had asked to present a brief update of the Project. However, they are now charging a fee. It is noted that it is not permitted for one charity to pay another charity therefore this is not possible. It is possible for one of their members who is also a member of the u3a to give a short update on Project developments as a guest rather than a speaker as the Project is no longer part of u3a. No sales will be permitted as the craft group is no longer part of the u3a and it was agreed we would not promote external organisations.

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. Speakers are also to be advised that they must be clearly visible to the audience to enable those with hearing difficulties to lipread.

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

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

#### 23.90 Group Co-ordinator's Report

The Group presentations at the November meeting are to be advertised to internal members only. There are 16 display boards available some of which may be used by more than one group. It is noted that u3a promotion of online educational provision should also be displayed in November. A Spanish language group with Group Leader

and Deputy Group Leader in place, has been suggested with sufficient interested members to run. Further developments are awaited. Sandy Parsons will take over the Theatre Group with Marilyn continuing in support. The Bridge Group is down to six members and will be promoted at u3a at the next monthly meeting. Three members from Cestria may also join the group. Kurling 2 might in doubt as numbers continue to drop. Congratulations to the Quiz Team who came in a very creditable fourth in the regional quiz.

#### 23.91 Treasurer's Report

The June Report was noted with thanks. No increase in Third Age Trust subscription is anticipated until 2026. The Ukelele Group have informally queried support for the purchase of logo'd shirts. No problem is anticipated with the request which should now come through formal channels.

#### 23.92 PR Update

Facebook is updated monthly. Good wishes from the u3a have been passed to Washington in Bloom whose hard work in the Village were being judged this week. Noted that u3a walking cricket, supported by Dickie Bird, was reported on the One Show recently, also commented that we had proposed walking football and cricket which had insufficient numbers to run.

#### 23.93 Regional and Network Update

A Regional meeting took place recently but WVu3a was not represented. In the Network meeting a protocol in relation to associate membership was discussed. Within our regional u3as only Wessington will not participate. Noted that Wessington is currently not attracting new members. The paragraph in the protocol referring to associate membership should be removed in view of Wessington's refusal. It is commented that Houghton le Spring has four membership renewal dates per year, and noted that they do not use Beacon.

#### 23.94 Members Liaison Report

No new members but one deceased. Membership is currently 240.

#### 23.95 IT/Website Update.

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

**Action:** Lyn pursuing video replacement by slideshow.

#### 23.96 Environment Update

We have agreed that members could bring their own cups to the monthly meeting. Helen will accept and recycle biscuit wrappers. Laura, the Council Education and Volunteer officer, could be invited to attend for a 15/20 minutes talk on recycling, perhaps at the November Group meeting. It is commented that empty tablet blister packs could also be recycled. This may be mentioned to the membership at a later date.

**Action:** Derek to send out email reminding members to bring their own cups.

**Action:** Helen to pass Laura's details to Carolyn.

#### 23.97 Tudor Costume Talk

As Carolyn has had no response from Julia, it is suggested that after contact has been made with Julia, a sub-group of Carolyn, Catherine, Maggie and Tania meet to consider the way forward. In the meantime, Carolyn to forward to Catherine a copy of the information sent to Julia in the hope that she will respond more speedily to a known contact.

**Action:** Carolyn to forward information to Catherine for forwarding to Julia

#### 23.98 Tenth Anniversary

As the tree is now a non-starter for the celebration, a bench has been discussed as an alternative. Lyn has spoken to the Bloomers and council in respect of requirements and planning permission, however to proceed further, a cost of £24 is needed for initial documentation. As this is only a preliminary amount, with a potential cost of hundreds of pounds, it has been decided to put plans on hold and go back to the membership for ways of more economically celebrating the anniversary.

#### 23.99 Any other business

##### 23.99(a) Christmas Party Food

As a date and speaker is already in place for Christmas, views were sought on caterers for the event. Several people had recommended Sheila's Kitchen, so prices and availability are to be sought.

**Action:** Tania to seek availability and prices for Christmas meeting catering.

##### 23.99(b) Big Breakfast

Chris had been invited to the Big Breakfast, an activity organised by the Health and Housing department of the council. Chris promoted the u3a as self-sustaining which appeared to surprise people, many of whom had not heard of u3a. The Church on the Hill is encouraging it's use as a cultural point, for example for art exhibition or art history. It was also suggested as a possible meeting point in our tenth anniversary celebrations, which would also utilise the bunting bought for the cancelled anniversary event due to the death of the Queen.

##### 23.99(c) Flowers

The committee agreed to send flowers and a card to the manager of the Stella who retires next week. She will be succeeded as manager by her daughter.