



Washington Village U3A Committee, Stella Maris

10.00am – 15th June 2023

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

23.71 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

23.72 Apologies

Helen Edwards, Pauline Palmer, Chris Scorer, Julie Stevens, Marilyn Ward

23.73 Acceptance of the minutes, with typographical errors and the following amendments, of the meeting of 18th May 2023, was proposed by Sandra Graham, seconded by Lyn Bossons and approved by all.

23.74 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. This remains an **Ongoing Action** with Derek to follow up options in respect of first aid.

23.55 Sandra and Lyn supported new members at the last monthly meeting, **resolving** this action.

23.55 Julie has sent membership cards via Beacon, **resolving** this action.

23.63 Within the Tai Chi item, the comment in respect of a possible member with relevant experience is removed from the minutes.

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.

Action: Lyn/Tania to speak to the environmental team from the council

Action: 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 The Chairs of Regional/Network have met and discussed the issue of associate/affiliate membership. This **closes** the action from last month with more detail in the body of the minutes.

23.67 Chris to contact the third Age Trust in respect of constitution and voting remains an **ongoing action**.

22.68 The action upon Helen to update the monthly schedule has been **resolved**.

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

23.75 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.

Action: Julie to email membership to advise of change.

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

23.76 Speaker Secretary's Report

Freda Thompson will present 'A Night at the Pictures' for our July speaker.

23.77 Group Co-ordinator's Report

Group Leaders have been emailed in respect of the new parking policy at Galleries Leisure Centre.

Board Games will restart in September.

Despite appeals the Coffee Morning has only one male attending.

Guitar and Harmonica are still running **Action:** Sandra to ascertain if it is to continue running.

Reading Group 3 will commence on 15th July.

Tai Chi is to commence at 10.30 on Monday 10th July in Harraton Community Centre.

Ron McClennan is the group leader. The tutor has 30 years' experience of teaching including to age concern. Cost is £40 for tutor, £16.50 for room hire, resulting in an estimated approximate weekly cost of £4pp.

Gentle Years Yoga has no group leader so will have to be abandoned.

Theatre Group is to have shared leadership.

23.78 Treasurer's Report

The May Report was noted with thanks and with clarification that at the end of the year the reserve should equal 50% of the year expenditure. It was commented that the Treasurer Chairs have met and associate membership was discussed with no issues reported. Noted that Bishop Auckland u3a no longer handle cash.

23.79 PR Update

Bracknell u3a have contacted Tania for more information on CAMEO. It is noted that several CAMEO groups have now formed nationwide. Barnsley u3a are interested in forming a Kurling Group and have requested Derek to attend with all Kurling equipment for a one day demonstration which the committee have agreed. Noted that there is no book/jigsaw exchange in July as Derek will not be available.

23.80 Regional and Network Update

The next meeting of Chairs will take place shortly, nothing else to report.

23.81 Members Liaison Report

Nothing to report.

23.82 IT/Website Update.

Nothing to report.

23.83 Environment Update

The Environmental Report was noted. There is uncertainty as to whether biscuit wrappers can be recycled. There was a great deal of discussion around the use of personal recyclable cups and the nomination of one person at each table to remove, rinse and take away recyclable cups at meetings. The possibility was raised of inviting a council environmental representative to give a talk at one of our monthly meetings.

28.84 CAMEO

There has been a query in respect of insurance of ad hoc groups meeting outside the CAMEO umbrella. Although all members of u3a are insured, it was established that those ad hoc groups who participate in activities outside CAMEO meetings are not normally insured therefore any CAMEO activity which becomes a regular scheduled event should be brought within the u3a umbrella as a separate group so that insurance could apply. The committee noted and applauded Tania's hard work with CAMEO which despite a few teething problems is a very successful group which is attracting national attention.