



Washington Village U3A Committee , Stella Maris

10.00am – 20th October 2022

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

22.120 Welcome

The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

22.121 Apologies

None

22.122 Acceptance of the minutes of 20th September 2022, was proposed by Derek Ginsberg, seconded by Chris Scorer and approved by all.

22.123 Matters Arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda

22.108 Resolved within 22.125: Derek to begin drafting Constitution amendments immediately

22.108 Ongoing action: as no October meeting took place: Julie to provide updated forms for the membership liaison table.

22.110 Resolved: Derek to email Sandra to request group leaders to display their group boards at October meeting. Sandra circulated a newsheet in view of the cancellation of October meeting.

22.112 Closed: Pauline to pursue the current speaker list update on Marilyn's behalf.

22.118 Ongoing action: Catherine to scan and forward nomination forms to Chris

22.118 Resolved within 22.129: Derek to contact Paul Pierce to discuss his restart of the group or hiring us the equipment for it to restart with a new leader

22.119(a) Resolved: Tania to design and circulate invitations for approval prior to printing

22.119(a) Resolved within 22.126: Pauline to explore the menu available.

22.119(b) Resolved within 22.130: Lyn to request clarification of the type of book requested

22.119(c) Resolved: Tania to contact the Heritage Group representative and confirm our willingness to be added to their banner.

22.124 TAT AGM update

The AGM dealt with finance at the beginning of a lengthy meeting. Noted that many u3a's are not recovering as well as expected with overall membership down. They have a reserve of £1.6 million, although the charity commission only require a £1.3 million reserve so there is still a comfortable margin. There is a development fund of £466,000 to enable new recruitment and increase membership. Currently they have 17 staff but are anticipating an increase to 24 staff despite the declining membership. Their finance is working on an anticipated 10% inflation rate and consequent rise. Noted that differing u3as charge variable amounts and have different spending patterns. Generally, people are angry at the two TAT resolutions, the first preferring financial change now, the second to financial change later. Each proposal had nine amendments. There is a real emphasis that changes/proposals could not be made without consultation and sight of their finance records by u3as. There were a series of comments about the link to state pension or the cost of living, however no decision was reached, and the resolution not passed.

22.125 Constitution review

Two issues had been raised in respect of committee membership, the length of time as officers and that of time served in the committee. Time served as a non-officer was limited to three years. This was felt to be very limiting. Maintaining continuity and making space for fresh blood were both very important. It was suggested that an interim proposal which could be reversed or amended, would be the most useful way forward. Amendment to the wording to clarify an officer length of service was also believed useful. The change was to be left until the next AGM where it could be put forward for full membership consultation. The amendments were proposed by Derek, seconded by Pauline and unanimously approved.

22.126 November and December monthly meetings

In Derek's absence, Pauline is to Chair November meeting. Group leaders are to bring their group boards and the Uke group to be asked to perform at the November meeting. Derek to drop off various equipment to Lyn to bring to the meeting. Tickets are now on sale for the December meeting, at which the entertainment is booked, and the committee will serve the food. In view of the demise of Bell's a quote has been obtained from the Hideaway Cafe for hot beef rolls and roast potatoes, with quiche for vegetarian members at a cost of £6.95 per person. Lyn circulated a prediction of costs comparing them with 2020 which indicated that costs would not be dissimilar. Raffle tickets would be on sale for donated prizes. Members are to be emailed/informed that entry would be by ticket only and vegetarian food would be for individuals identified at

time of ticket purchase. Stella would provide Xmas music and decorations will be up. Committee to bring trays to serve the food.

Action: Lyn to email membership in respect of Xmas ticket requirements

22.127 Membership Secretary's Report

No new members have joined; however, two new membership requests are pending. The current membership remains at 204.

22.128 Speaker Secretary's Report

Marilyn is to pass over the documentation for the role to Carolyn tomorrow. Mike Green and Brian Matthews are to be asked to present their talks next year. Cancelled October speaker is to be invited back next year.

22.129 Group Co-ordinator's Report

The group leaders had been asked to update their web pages in September, the circulated group newssheet provided update as no October meeting took place. Sandra proposed to set up a group co-ordinator board at the meeting which will provide overview of groups and activities for personal perusal, however, will speak on exceptional activities such as forthcoming trips etc. There was much discussion on what comprised the format of a group and what the group leader activities were. It was commented that the craft group is only loosely connected with u3a as it has reverted to its previous church group basis. No feedback has been received from Paul Pierce in relation to the resumption of his curling group. Noted that both the council and u3a provide funding for group start-ups. Curling, film appreciation and lunches groups are not currently running so have been 'retired' from the webpages until group leaders are found.

22.130 Treasurer's Report.

The monthly financial report was presented, noting that 205 members have paid. Monthly meetings at the Stella are paid quarterly. Various expenses were clarified and confirmed with £3750 reserves which is a comfortable amount.

The ukulele group songbook has sourced a printer which can print 35 copies for £235. The group will charge members £5 per copy and when added to their existing funding will cover the charge for the printer. Lyn proposed they should be permitted to purchase the printer at u3a cost, then refund once 30 copies had been sold. Derek seconded the proposal which was unanimously carried.

Marilyn Ward had resigned from the committee in September and was therefore removed as a signatory from the u3a bank account at Barclays. As this negated her business debit card, required for her theatre/cinema group purchases, Lyn proposed that Marilyn be cop-opted onto the committee immediately. Derek seconded the proposal which was unanimously carried.

Currently our Finance Policy specifies which roles our authorised signatories should be. Lyn proposed the wording be amended in the policy be amended to specify authorised

signatories must be members of the committee. Noted that Helen Edwards has now been added to the list of signatories. Lyn proposed the wording change to permit Pauline and Sandra to continue as signatories (trustees). Julie seconded Lyn's proposal which was unanimously approved.

Currently our reserves are set to about 75% of annual expenditure. As the Charity Commission and TAT both recommend 50% reserves, Lyn proposes that our Finance Policy wording be amended to 'a level of reserves around 50% of the previous year's gross annual expenditure (excluding group activities, which are virtually self-financing). Tania seconded this proposal which was unanimously approved.

22.131 Members Liaison Report

Pauline had taken over from Marie. Only one card was required this month.

22.132 Network Report

Nothing to report.

22.133 Regional Update

A membership retention meeting had taken place, but Derek had been unable to attend.

22.134 Website Update

Helen, as website administrator had 'hidden' inactive groups on the website.

22.135 Any other business

Tania reported on PR which had been omitted from the agenda. Noted there had been no feedback on countrywide achievements of the u3a 40th anniversary events. The regional u3a PR adviser had stepped down, so no support/guidance or feedback was available. Our u3a group is working but the national framework and feedback process is disappointing. Noted that Tania had been offered the vacancy but was inclined to refuse at this time due to pressure of other commitments.