Washington Village U3A Committee, Westwood Club

10.00am – 15th February 2024

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

24.17 Welcome
The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

24.18 Apologies
Carolyn Baxter, Maggie Hope, Chris Scorer

24.19 Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 18th January 2024, with minor wording corrections, was proposed by Helen Edwards, seconded by Julie Stevens and approved by all.

24.20- Matters Arising from the minutes not elsewhere on the agenda:

14.1(b) Stella Heating
The issue of the heating of monthly meetings is to be raised with the Stella management by Derek and Lyn
Ongoing: Derek and Lyn have spoken with Stella management in respect of the heating and found nothing can be done
14.1(d) **Tania had circulated cake costing and photos to the committee which had been unanimously accepted.**

24.21 Membership Secretary's Report
Two new members, totalling 271 members.

24.22 Speaker Secretary's Report
Nothing to report.

24.23 Group Co-ordinator's Report
Environmental group have set up a WhatsApp. Comedy group is running with limited numbers. Spanish Advanced is going ahead with three members. Guitar members will meet on 27th February at the Steps. Music group are to be asked to stay behind after the meeting. Our Generation group has six members. We now have 32 groups.

24.24 Treasurer's Report

Report noted. Noted that in respect of gift aid HMRC have advised that benefits such as subsidy of a Christmas buffet may not exceed 25% of our donation therefore this year's Christmas event must ensure member subsidy is not above 25% of total costs.

24.25 PR Update

Nothing to report.

24.26 Regional and Network Update

Nothing to report other than Cestria has appointed a new Chair.

24.27 Members Liaison Report

Three cards have been forwarded this month.

24.28 IT/Website Update

Previously circulated report was noted.

24.29 Environment Update

Previously circulated report was noted and deferred to the next meeting,

24.30 Monthly Meetings

(a) Westwood Review

Two attachments had been circulated outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the Stella and the Westwood. Although more costly, it was considered that the Westwood, particularly in size and heating, was superior to the Stella, however there were concerns around access for those with mobility issues, and parking, as there was limited parking in the Westwood which was on a bus route. It was noted that there was free parking availability in a small nearby car park and on nearby streets which involved a short walk. After a vote, it was agreed no decision could be made today but a short survey would be taken at the next monthly meeting to determine the approximate number of cars required. This item will be taken forward to the next committee meeting. Noted that 173 members attended the last monthly meeting.

Action: Julie to email Frank Carroll in respect of register for car drivers

(b) AGM

It had been agreed that the AGM would also celebrate the 10th anniversary with tea, coffee, cake and entertainment by the Ukelele group. There was some discussion of the re-election of the committee and agreed that at the next meeting members were to be encouraged to attend committee meetings to enable more shadowing for deputising of outgoing committee members. Gloria and John, previous Chairs, would give a short presentation at the AGM after which Gloria would cut the cake. Photos would be provided by Joan Molloy to enable a slideshow during refreshments. It was agreed that there was insufficient time for a raffle, therefore excess raffle prizes from Christmas are to be utilised by the Day Trip group.

Action: Pauline to send our AGM notifications at the end of March/beginning of April

Action: Lyn to send documents to Pauline for distribution
Action: Derek to invite John Edwards and Ian MacIntosh to next committee meeting.

24.31 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, trialled by TAT, potentially setting a new level between the regional and national committee has been running for several months. It was commented that when groups get too large, it is more efficient to sub-divide which is an acceptable process. Noted that this is addressed within the current TAM. It has been suggested that there will be a membership vote on the pilot council as this is a membership decision not a TAT decision. It is uncertain whether this vote will be by individual members or individual u3as.

24.32 Any other business

None