Washington Village U3A Committee, The Stella

10.00am – 16th May 2024

Attending: Derek Ginsberg (Chair), Carolyn Baxter, Lyn Bossons, Helen Edwards, John Edwards, Catherine Hambley, Maggie Hope, Ian McIntosh, Julie Stevens

24.62 Welcome
The Chair welcomed returning Committee members to the meeting and new members: John Edwards and Ian McIntosh

24.63 Apologies
Sandra Graham, Tania LeMarinel, P Palmer

24.64 Acceptance of the minutes of the meeting of 18th April 2024, with minor wording corrections, was proposed by Lyn Bossons, seconded by Julie Stevens and approved by all. Noted that the latter part of this meeting was inquorate, so some decisions require ratification at the next meeting of the full committee.
Secretary's Note: U3a Constitution has a 25% or four member quoracy, therefore the previous meeting was not inquorate.

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

24.45 Environment Update
The Environment Group now has a group on WhatsApp as membership has reduced. They have had speakers; incorporated new methods into our meetings such as using our own cups; have had visits to recycling sites; distributed leaflets and recycled biscuit wrappers. Ideas for further progress could include speaking to schoolchildren, also surveying the u3a membership for their ideas/concerns in respect of recycling, possibly as a u3a project. Online surveys might also be possible.
Closed: Tania to cost an anonymous electronic voting system
Ongoing: Helen to investigate a possible environmental survey

24.53 Speaker Secretary's Report
Ken Tonge has been provisionally booked for the Christmas meeting but there was concern about increased costs from £60 in 2022 to £200 now, however this was for 2 x 45 minute sets which was felt to be too long for our meeting.

Resolved: Carolyn had contacted Ken and negotiated a price for one set of 45 to 60 minutes at £100, this was agreed.

24.54 Group Co-ordinator's Report
The group leader of Tai Chi has expressed concern that reducing fees for the group might leave the group short of funds if attendance drops over the summer months due to holidays etc.
Post meeting note – The group leader has resigned due to ill health leading to:
Resolved. Sandra to canvass members for a volunteer to become group leader; Ian McIntosh and Joan Ball are to be joint new group leaders

Our pickleball groups have been approached about taking part in a demonstration at the York festival.
Ongoing Action: Sandra to contact group leaders to discuss and if participating what travel arrangements are to be made. One of the group leaders, John, has contacted the subject advisor.

Some of the new members have expressed an interest in the strolling group but with Chris continuing to be indisposed the future is unclear.
Ongoing action: Sandra to contact Chris to ascertain her intentions.

24.56 PR Update
Concern has been expressed about the content and impact of the Boom Radio adverts which are running for three months. Local PR advisors have not been consulted.
The PR strategy was accepted with minor amendments.
The draft membership survey was discussed and it was agreed that it would be of benefit to know if members attended only the monthly meeting or meeting and groups or groups only.
Ongoing Action: Tania to update survey.

24.57 Regional / Network
Regional AGM is Tuesday 30th April at Biddick Club. Derek and Tania are planning to attend.
It would be interesting to see who, if any, of our members are intending to attend the York festival with a view to possibly coordinating travel.
Resolved: Derek to send email to all members.

24.58 IT/Website Update
The new 'test' website is up and running and comments are very favourable.
How it looks and is updated is slightly different depending on what device is being used.
Resolved: Helen to contact group leaders to find out whether they use tablet/phone/ laptop

24.60 U3a Social Change
Tania attended a Zoom meeting held by the Third Age Trust on Tuesday, 16th April, which gave details on a new initiative to develop a stronger u3a voice

and get members involved in designing a campaign to support the u3a's national influencing and social change agenda. Up to now the u3a has not been involved in campaigning or advocacy for issues affecting older people and members in particular so this is a new direction for u3a. Campaigning is part of the u3a's charitable objectives and has the full backing of the CEO. All members are invited to attend focus groups being held from April to June 2024 to answer three questions:

1) what the process to organise and manage national campaigning within the u3a might be;
2) what campaigning in the u3a might look like; and
3) how national campaigning by the u3a could/would make a difference.
Responses will be analyzed then there will be a national consultation in 2025 to identify one topic (nationally) that the u3a would start to campaign on.
Resolved: Tania to draft an email for Derek to send to all members inviting them to attend focus groups.

24.66 Membership Secretary's Report
Five new members, I rejoined and several resignations since last meeting, bringing the total to 273 including 29 members who have still not renewed. Noted that members have two months grace period to renew which would end on 3rd June. Should all 29 lapse that would reduce membership by 10%.
Action: Julie to contact group leaders to informed of lapsed members

24.67 Speaker Secretary's Report
Ged Parker will be next speaker on 6th June on the topic of Washington's 60th anniversary. Ian has volunteered to be guest speaker on 2nd January 2025 on the topic of Scotland. Carolyn intends to work on a spreadsheet of speakers to be placed on a shared account so all committee members can access it. The Shindig choir will be guest entertainers on 4th July which is also a US celebration. The August speaker will give a talk on the topic of the Battle of Britain in the North East.

24.68 Group Co-ordinator's Report
Tai Chi group will have Ian MacIntosh and Joan Ball as new group leaders from June. There is a proposed increase of fees from £40 to £45 for the tutor.

- **Action: Fee increase agreed pending ratification by full committee**

- Comedy Group has been closed. A replacement group may start under a different name at a later date.

- Strollers. Pam Marlow has agreed to restart the Strolling Goup (until Chris Scorer takes up the reins again). The first walk will be at the end of May, starting at the Biddick Club. 15 members interested in joining the group.

- Pickleball. U3a Pickleball subject adviser has contacted us with the aim of trying to build a u3a Pickleball Network. Details have been passed to group leaders, John and Richard and asked if they can help. John has been in contact with him.

24.69 Treasurer's Report
Financial report noted with thanks.

24.70 PR Update
Helen and Tania have agreed to work on updating the wording for the website and costing/preparing a member survey after Tania's return on 22nd May. Tania has drafted the email about the Social Change agenda which Derek sent out.

24.71 Regional / Network
Nothing to report.

24.72 Members Liaison Report
Nothing to report.

24.73 IT/Website Update
(a) The new website is ready for use and there is a proposal to activate it and deactivate the old website. The Business Secretary is to update the Universal Resource Locator (URL) but requires access which is pending information from Chris. The automatic move from old to new will be actioned by Helen after a period of time. The sites switch will take place prior to training to give group leaders an opportunity to view their own pages in advance. The new members form also requires updating on Beacon/Website to show the new URL. Helen is to meet group leaders to demonstrate the site in editing format, to that end she is preparing a summary document in a more user-friendly format for users. A venue is currently being sought.

(b) Google workspace for non-profit organisations on google drive can be accessed via personal google accounts. One administrator will have control. The website address has to match what is on the charity commission website. It is possible to use this as a shared space as well as individual so should be able to work with the proposed speaker spreadsheet. It is provided free from google with 100 terrabytes of space for charities.

24.74 Environment update
Nothing to report.

24.75 AGM and Committee
Very positive feedback was received from AGM which went smoothly. The u3a song is to be posted on Facebook. The Register of elected committee members each year is noted, with officers: Derek and Lyn in unchanged roles and Tania as new Vice Chair. John Edwards is appointed as Business Secretary and Ian McIntosh also appointed to the committee. Noted that John and Ian are to be swapped into formal emails as soon as access is possible. Marilyn has resigned; however, Pauline is still liaison secretary and remains co-opted onto the committee until another volunteer to take that role is found. All other roles are appointed without change.
Action: Pauline's role is agreed, pending ratification by full committee
Action: Lyn, Derek and John to meet to discuss the business secretary role.
Action: Lyn to update committee membership.

24.76 AOB

(a) The photographic group have requested a new three metre HDMI cable. This is approved unanimously, pending ratification by the full committee, with costing to be forwarded to Lyn for ordering.