Washington Village U3A Committee, Black Bush

11.00am – 19th December 2024

Attending: Derek Ginsberg (Chair), Lyn Bossons, Helen Edwards, John Edwards, Sandra Graham, Catherine Hambley, Maggie Hope, Tania LeMarinel, Ian McIntosh, Pauline Palmer, Julie Stevens.

24.160 Welcome
The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

24.161 Apologies
Carolyn Baxter

24.162 Minutes of the meeting of 21st November were considered and minor errors being addressed, acceptance was proposed by Julie Stevens, seconded by Helen Edwards and approved by all.

24.163 Matters arising

24.147 Speaker Secretary's Report.
Speakers are now booked until May 2025 with a further three pending for the new speaker to set up. The spreadsheet will be updated to show proposed speaker contact details. No speaker is required for the AGM. Carolyn requests the opportunity to speak at a future meeting to clarify the requirements of the speaker role, this is agreed.
Ongoing action: Derek to further request volunteers for the committee and inform of all the committee roles with a short narrative for each role which is to become vacant.
Action: Outgoing committee members to forward a short precis of their role to Catherine for collation and forwarding to Derek to circulate to membership.

24.159 Any other business

(a) Microphone/blue tooth speaker is requested for the quiz group as members had difficulty hearing at the November meeting as the surroundings were too noisy. A spare microphone is available to borrow from the monthly meeting and agreed by the committee that the cost of a blue tooth speaker may be investigated.

Resolved: John to investigate the cost of the blue tooth speaker which was confirmed as £45.99 and has now been purchased.

24.164 Group Coordinator's Report

At the Adventure and Discussion group preliminary meeting only two members turned up. Discussion group is pending further action post-Christmas. The Adventure group was suggested to fit within CAMEO but this is not believed to be a good fit and no interest or ideas have been put forward for it to be pursued further. Noted that group members with medical conditions requiring assistance should be accompanied by a carer.

24.165 Speaker Secretary's Report

All speakers are organised through to April 2025. It is believed that the AGM in May will have a new speaker secretary who should continue Maggie's preparatory proposals. The Uke Group is suggested for next Christmas meeting entertainment. A chocolate company speaker who is already on file is believed to be an entertaining speaker and suggested for AGM.

Action: It is suggested that Carolyn contact chocolate company speaker for AGM in May.

24.166 Business Secretary Report

There is little to report at the moment. There have been few responses to request for committee volunteers.

24.167 PR Update

Group leaders have been contacted in respect of updating group profiles. Line Dancing and Advanced Spanish will wait until the New Year.

24.168 Treasurer's Report

Noted that the Leisure Centre is increasing charges by 5% from January 2025. A healthy reserve remains in the u3a funds. Subscription levels will be discussed at March 2025 meeting. A possible increase in speaker fees should also be discussed which will allow more leeway in speaker bookings. Noted that Marilyn will return her debit card at the end of the financial year.

24.169 Members Liaison Report.

One card was sent out last month. Two new members in November totalling 269 members. Noted that 40 members do not attend any group. A group showcasing event was discussed as a way to extend group knowledge to the membership with the possibility of a taster day suggested for interested parties – this is to be discussed further in January 2025.

24.170 Christmas Meeting Review

The total cost to the funds was £289.95 which was approximately half the cost of last year's Christmas meeting. The entertainment was good but repeated the music of the previous format rather than a different schedule. Many complaints were received from the membership on the poorly presented food. The committee agreed there was to be no repeat business for the Hideaway Café but instead revisit Sheila's Kitchen for next year.

24.171 Any other business

(a) There was discussion of the minute's silence for members who had passed, and agreed that it was difficult to do this for everyone who passes particularly in view of the age range of the membership. An annual list of those who passed and the possibility of a short tribute to them was discussed and dismissed as unfeasible, therefore it was agreed that there is to be no more minute silences or names of deceased members at monthly meetings, instead the Chair will send out occasional email notifications.

(b) Links with Washington Village, after whom we are named, was discussed, however as contacts had been mostly from u3a and met with much bureaucracy, such as experienced with the possible bench dedication, this was discounted.

Action: A wreath from u3a for Remembrance Sunday in the Village is to be explored by Ian.