Washington Village U3A Committee, The Stella

11.00am – January 2025

Attending: Derek Ginsberg (Chair), Carolyn Baxter, Lyn Bossons, Helen Edwards, John Edwards, Sandra Graham, Catherine Hambley, Terry Harris (Observer), Maggie Hope, Tania LeMarinel, Ian McIntosh, Julie Stevens.

25.01 Welcome
The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

25.02 Apologies
Pauline Palmer

25.03 Minutes of the meeting of 19th December were considered and minor errors being addressed, acceptance was proposed by Helen Edwards, seconded by Julie Stevens and approved by all.

25.04 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. 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.
Resolved: Outgoing committee members to forward a short precis of their role to Catherine for collation and forwarding to Derek to circulate to membership.

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 Carolyn'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.
Ongoing Action: It is suggested that Carolyn contact the chocolate company speaker for AGM as soon as the company reopens in February after refurbishment

24.171(b) AOB
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.
Ongoing Action: A wreath from u3a for Remembrance Sunday in the Village is to be explored by Ian.

25.05 Speaker Secretary's Report
All speakers are now listed and have been shared with the committee. The chocolate company remains closed until February so no progress is possible until then. The organisation of June and July speakers is in hand.

25.06 Membership Secretary's Report
Two new members have joined, bringing the total membership to 271. New members are largely joining via groups.

25.07 Group Co-ordinator's Report
- Spanish beginners is not likely to operate again as the group leader is unavailable in the longer term.
- Tai Chi beginners will start on 3rd February by joining the original group with nine new members expected.
- Adventure group will meet after this committee meeting. It is anticipated it will meet on Tuesday 11th February.
- Drawing and Painting group will display work on two boards at the February meeting. The intent is to show individual progress from beginning to the present. Although a thriving group there is still space for more members. There is no update on the Spanish advanced group.
  Action: Sandra to contact Crispin in respect of progress/operation

25.08 PR Update
A poster is being created to promote the Drawing and Painting group. An update from the Drawing and Painting group is currently awaited.

25.09 Business Secretary Report
Regional and Board Elections have had varied responses from the membership opting for different persons. Once collated, the recommendation will go with the majority. The closing date is 21st February. There is no update on Fit for the Future.

25.10 IT/Website Report
Nothing to report.

25.11 Environment
Update Nothing to report.

25.12 Treasurer's Report
(a) December Report and the healthy surplus of £5,900 was noted.

(b) A forecast for the 25-26 financial year raised concerns as it predicted a surplus which is over 100% of expected expenditure when a surplus of 50% is expected. To resolve this, the proposed choices are to increase expenditure or reduce fees. Lyn proposed and Derek seconded a proposal to reduce fees to £12 per person, per annum, until reserves reach 50% of expenditure. The proposal was agreed by all.
Action: Lyn to notify membership of change to annual membership fee of £12
Action: Lyn to amend membership forms and Beacon parameters.

25.13 Members Liaison
Report Nothing to report.

25.14 Regional and Network Update
Network Chairs have not met since Christmas. There is a Regional meeting next Wednesday at Metrocentre community hub to receive a talk on updating the Speakers Lists. Houghton u3a have requested a copy of our original survey to use as basis for their forthcoming survey.
Action: Derek to forward survey document from Tania to Wessington

25.15 AGM and Committee Roles
John to send out notice and voting notifications in due course. Last year's report to update. Noted the Chair, Treasurer and Business Secretary are all officer roles. No roles have volunteer replacements as yet, however as a last resort could be covered by other members of the committee. It was pointed out that the committee is mutually supportive, no person will act alone, there will be ample support from other committee members.
Action: Derek to forward last year's AGM notes to Catherine for collation

25.16 Any other business

(a) Helen reported that finance Beacon training took place yesterday with the second part still to do.

(b) Helen commented that we should consider setting up a specific Beacon email for the role as Beacon Administrator to separate from the Treasurer role.

(c) Following favourable comments from the membership on Ian's excellent Scottish show at New Year, Ian agreed to perform again at Christmas. There would then be two acts from the membership as the Uke group will also perform.