Washington Village u3a Annual General Meeting
The Stella

11.00am – 2nd May 2024

24.01 Attending: u3a members and committee members attending May monthly meeting and continuing into AGM.

24.02 Apologies
Numerous apologies offered and accepted.

24.03 Welcome
The chair warmly welcomed members to the AGM portion of the monthly meeting.
Previous minutes
Acceptance of the previous 4th May 2023 AGM was proposed by Carolyn Baxter, seconded by Maggie Hope and unanimously approved.

24.04 Chairs Report
As we are here celebrating the 10th anniversary of Washington Village u3a, we must express our gratitude to our original committee and members as without their vision, energy and determination we would not be here. I am interested to hear about those early days and am pleased to say that Gloria Gibson, our first chair, and John Thomas, an original committee member and second chair, are going to give a short presentation after the formalities of the AGM.

Looking back on the last year I am proud of what we have achieved. Our membership has increased again and now stands at over 270, an increase of about 25%. We have over 30 interest groups running with numbers in many increasing steadily. During the year I think we have provided a varied and interesting selection of speakers and entertainment for our monthly meetings which are always well attended.

I am often asked what has made us so successful when other u3a's both locally and nationally are struggling. I think that this partly goes back to the dark days of Covid when we were unable to run meetings or groups. At that time some u3a's failed to engage with their members as well as we did through our zoom meetings, newsletters and personal phone calls. This meant we retained a higher percentage of members than some other u3a's. Having high membership numbers meant we were able to offer more interest groups and that in itself then attracted new members and more members meant even more groups and the growth continues.

The other main factor in our success is you, our members. Although we all have our own circle of friends that we attend groups or meetings with it is always pleasing to see new members being welcomed and integrated into our u3a, firstly through the new members table at monthly meetings and then by the way they are welcomed into interest groups.

We must always remember that we are a member's organisation, run by members for the benefit of members and as such we depend on volunteers. Our regular volunteers include the committee, group leaders, and members making refreshments at monthly meetings. So I must firstly offer thanks to anyone who has helped in any way during the past year but must also ask you to consider 'is there anything I can do to help?'. I estimate that out of 270 members only about 45 volunteered to help last year, with most of these taking on several roles. Please think about volunteering.

My task as chair has been made easier by having an active and supportive committee and offer my sincere thanks to them for their help during the last year. I am therefore pleased that with the exception of Chris Scorer they have all agreed to offer themselves for election for a further year. Chris has served on the committee as Business Secretary for the past 3 years and her input will be missed so a special thank you to Chris.

Thank you all for your support over the past year and let us hope that next year continues to be successful but most importantly enjoyable.

24.05 Treasure's Report from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

For the financial year ending 31/3/24, the total income was £23,142, and the total expenditure was £20,693. These figures are predominantly made up of the income and expenditure of Activity Groups.

The WVu3a account balance on 31/3/24 was £5247. This includes a net total of £1788 ring-fenced for Groups, so a more realistic estimate of WVu3a reserves is £3459. This figure is 75% of annual expenditure (ex Groups), which is higher than anticipated due to significantly increased membership. The committee will seek to reduce reserves to 50% of expenditure during the 2024/25 financial year.

Acceptance of the report was proposed by Paul Pearce, seconded by Diane Tully and unanimously accepted.

24.06 Appointment of Examiner for 2023/24 accounts

A vote to appoint Tony Morrell as independent examiner was proposed by Christine Davidson, seconded by Dorothy Stewart and was carried unanimously.

24.07 Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

Chris Scorer was not standing for re-election and was thanked by the chair for her contribution to the committee, particularly in her role as Business Secretary.
All other existing members were prepared to stand for re-election and they, together with two new volunteers were proposed for election. As this gave 11 nominations with 12 positions available an 'en bloc' proposal was proposed by Jack Palmer and seconded by Michael Green and was unanimously agreed:

Carolyn Baxter
Lyn Bossons (Treasurer)
John Edwards
Helen Edwards
Sandra Graham
Derek Ginsberg (Chair)
Catherine Hambley
Margaret Hope
Tania le Marinel (Vice Chair)
Ian McIntosh
Julie Stevens

24.08 Date of Next Annual General Meeting

The next AGM will be held on Thursday 1st May 2025.