Washington Village U3A Committee, Glebe Scout Hut

10.00am – 20th March 2025

Attending: John Edwards (Chair), Carolyn Baxter, Lyn Bossons, Helen Edwards, Sandra Graham, Catherine Hambley, Maggie Hope, Tania LeMarinel, Jackie Robinson, Julie Stevens.

25.34 Welcome
The Chair welcomed Committee members and observer to the meeting.

25.35 Apologies
Derek Ginsberg, Ian McIntosh, Pauline Palmer

25.36 Minutes of the meeting of 20th February 2025 were considered and a minor error being addressed, acceptance was proposed by Lyn, seconded by Sandra and approved by all.

25.37 Matters arising

25.12 (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.
Resolved: Lyn to amend Beacon parameters.

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.
Resolved: Derek to forward last year's AGM notes to Catherine for collation

25.21 Monthly Meeting
It has been noticed that over the last few months that several members leave the meeting during the speaker's talk. The committee feels this is disconcerting for speaker. It raised the issue of the meeting's timing: feelers had been put out and the suggestion 10.30-12.30pm replacing 11-1pm is preferable. The Stella

management would be happy with this change. Moving to another venue (e.g. St George's) is still impractical given the numbers attending the monthly meeting.
Holding the committee meetings elsewhere was also considered since the background noise in the Stella's bar can be detrimental to members hearing what is being said. It was agreed to try First Washington Scout Hall if it is available when we'd need it.
Resolved: Derek to include in his email to members, in advance of monthly meetings, reminder of the time of the meeting, the length of the speaker's talk and etiquette expected while the speaker is giving the talk.
Resolved: Derek will ask for a "show of hands" at the next monthly meeting for proposed timing change.
Resolved: Ian to check access to First Washington Scout Hall with Doug McIntyre.
Resolved: Lyn to bring refreshments to the meeting if change confirmed.

25.22 Speaker Secretary's Report
Speakers/performers are now booked until July excepting the short slot following the AGM in May: a 30 minutes talk is needed. The July meeting is a "Summer Fayre": One Voice choir will perform for about 40 minutes and it was agreed to extend the entertainment by asking some groups to do something on the theme of summer in a 10-20 minutes slot. Suggestions included Comedy and Sketches, Creative Writing, Drawing and Painting, Reading groups.
Ongoing action: Carolyn to seek May speaker from Speakers' List.
Ongoing action: Carolyn to ask some group leaders about performances at July's meeting.
Resolved: Tania to contact Sheila's Kitchen about strawberry scones for July's meeting.

25.24 Group Co-ordinator's Report
Sandra plans to book initial meetings for the Adventure and Discussion Groups in the Cross Keys when she is back home.
Resolved: Sandra to book initial meetings for the Adventure and Discussion Groups in the Cross Keys.

25.25 PR Update
George has asked for help with PR for the Comedy group: Tania is meeting him and the group straight after the Committee meeting.
Resolved action: Tania to liaise with George and group and point him to resources (e.g. u3a Improv subject adviser).

25.29 Treasurer's Report
There are two routes to generating income via members spending: Riviera travel and Easyfundraising scheme. Riviera travel offers 10% donation to a home u3a where a member booking with them gives them the u3a's name. It is believed this has no impact on any discount offered to the members booking a trip. For Easyfundraising items that are ordered via their portal accrue donations for the nominated charity: they work with a wide range of retailers. (After the new committee is appointed, the new treasurer will register with

Easyfundraising and inform members of it).
Resolved: Lyn to clarify the details of the Riviera scheme and inform members of it once again. Namely that direct booking to Riviera via phone or online will result in a 10% cashback to the u3a, irrespective of any discount offered.

25.30 Members Liaison
Two cards were sent out last month, and one has been sent to Christine Hope whose husband died recently.
Resolved: Pauline to email members and speak at the monthly meeting to remind them to let her know if any member should be receiving a card.

25.32 AGM
Derek noted that we will be losing four committee members this year and was glad to welcome three observers to today's meeting.
Nomination forms will be going out with the AGM notification in March. Forms will be available to complete/leave at the April meeting.
Resolved: John to email members with AGM notification and committee membership nomination forms.

25.33 Any other business
Bill asked if a safety announcement should be given at monthly meetings.
Pauline suggested we buy better biscuits for monthly meetings.
Next committee meeting to be at 1st Washington Scout Hall.
Closed: Derek to make a safety announcement at monthly meetings.
Resolved: Lyn to investigate buying better biscuits.

25.38 Monthly meetings
A survey is to be taken on the issue of monthly meeting timings, with a proposed amendment from 11am to 10.30 to try to reduce the number of members who leave before the speaker ends his/her talk. The aim is to reduce disruption and try to accommodate member commitments by an earlier start. The survey will be taken on arrival as part of the registration process to assess whether the change to start time will be the majority preference.

25.39 Treasurer's Report
The report was received and the healthy condition of the funds noted. Noted that the delays in the invoicing of the Millennium Centre were due to the misspelling of Lyn's email address by the administrator which is why the invoice had not been received. Annual subscriptions are to be reduced in line with earlier discussions. The Theatre Group is inactive as there is no Group Leader. Marilyn's group leader debit card has been returned to the bank by Lyn. It is noted that May signatories will need to change, so the appropriate forms have been obtained by Lyn to facilitate the process. Lyn proposed that when Sandra, Marilyn and Pauline come off the authorised signature list that Tania be added. At that point Lyn, Helen and Tania will be the only signatories. The potential proposal was agreed by all. There was discussion about payments in view of the closure of Lloyds new charges for business accounts in the Galleries and suggested that payment by BACs would be the preferred way forward.

25.40 PR Update
The Comedy group and Advanced Spanish groups now have updated posters. An

email has been sent to group leaders asking if they wished to be placed on the council website with only one response. Updates have been placed on Facebook.

25.41 IT/Website update
Business has been proceeding as normal. In respect of changing committee membership roles, all exiting committee members are asked to ensure that their email addresses on Beacon reflect their personal emails rather than committee emails. Committee email data is to be passed to Helen for confirmation and release to incoming committee members.

25.42 Environment update
The only item of note is to advertise the global world no food waste day in April.

25.43 Business Secretary report.
The AGM notice has now been sent out, with some positive responses in response. Noted that the due date for completion of nomination submissions is a requirement of the Constitution.

25.44 Group Co-Ordinator's report

- The initial Discussion group met with seven attendees, one of whom volunteered to be group leader. The group will mostly meet in the Cross Keys. Advanced Spanish will meet tomorrow.
- Theatre and Cinema group has a possible group leader in Crispin Wells who has asked for further information. Marilyn has been advised and will contact him to discuss the details of the role for which the outcome is still to be advised.
- Two new groups; Tai Chi beginners and the Jamming session which has seven or eight members with two new members turning up last week.
- A couple of members have requested more information on the Tai Chi beginners, but as Ian is on holiday, there is no further information.
- The changes at the leisure centre, which is reducing its spaces, have been passed to group leaders

25.45 Speaker Secretary's report
April/June/July speakers are booked but with no success for May which is our AGM. Time is now very short to book for May, with all speakers busy at that time, the Uke group and the Jamming group have both been mentioned.
Action: Carolyn to email the membership to advise that the Speaker Secretary role has support from a speaker list from which monthly speakers can be sought.

25.46 Membership Secretary's Report
No new members this month, so the total membership remains at 279. An email will go out shortly to ask members to verify their membership details, this update may result in adjusted numbers.
Action: Julie to email members to ask they verify their membership details.
Action: Lyn to email group leaders to destroy existing membership forms in view of the fees alterations to the membership. The membership forms are to be updated and reissued.

25.47 Members Liaison Report
This month, one card had been posted and one member who is abroad, had been emailed.

25.48 Regional and Network update
Nothing to report.

25.49 AGM and committee roles
Lyn is preparing a powerpoint presentation for the AGM. It will mostly be financial but will also contain the agenda. Lyn will also, by agreement, list the u3a milestones since he joined in 2018. It is noted that the committee nomination names will not be available till next month, also that only three officer roles are specified, all other roles are simply committee members until the roles are specified later.