Washington Village U3A Committee

Cross Keys 10.30am – 18TH December 2025

Attending: John Edwards(Chair), Lyn Bossons, Catherine Hambley, Ann Dodds, Helen Edwards, Ian McIntosh, Jackie Robinson, Richard Mulvey

25.183 Welcome
The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting.

25.184 Apologies
Derek Ginsberg, Tania le Marinel, Pauline Palmer,

25.185 Minutes of the meeting of 16th November 2025 were considered and minor errors being addressed, acceptance was proposed by Helen, seconded by Lyn and approved by all.

25.186 Matters arising

25.149 Any other business
John has reviewed some risk assessments from other u3a's and will consider developing risk assessments for Washington Village u3a **Closed**:
John to continue to review and develop any risk assessments needed.
Resolved: John has reviewed the policies and suggested we need policies for safeguarding, health and safety and activities of a sporting nature. Policy Templates can be downloaded from the trust website and John will ask group leaders to complete their relevant format

(a) Cash for Clubs
Noted that this grant is available for clubs offering sporting activities for over 18s. We should consider whether we will submit a collective u3a application, or by individual groups for the sum of £2,000 for facilities, equipment, coaching qualifications, activity programmes or something else.
Resolved: John has made an application on behalf of Washington Village u3a which is being considered and response expected at the end of January 2026.

25.171 Members Liaison Report. Three cards sent out this month.
Action: Pauline to purchase stamps.

25.174 Membership Secretary's Report
We now have 296 members 2 or three members have paid the full amount of £12. These people have been contacted all have made a £4 donation to WV u3a.
Resolved: Richard to amend the application form to reflect the reduction to £8.

25.175 Speaker Secretary's Report
Speakers are now booked till August Next year. Feedback regarding last month's speaker has been good
Resolved: Jackie to update spreadsheet

26.181 December 4th Christmas Meeting
A notice will be sent out for raffle prizes.
Entrance tickets will be collected at the door with 131 tickets sold.
The order for the party will be Singer, Buffet and tea and coffee service followed by a raffle.
Resolved: Richard to collect tickets
Catherine, Jackie, Tania and Ian to run the raffle.
The Buffet will be served by the committee to all members.
Volunteers for the tea coffee service will be contacted prior to the event.
Tania to contact Sheila's kitchen with final numbers and special meals will be labelled with the member's name.

25.182 Any other business
(c) There are insufficient teapots
Resolved: Lyn to purchase 2 more teapots

25.187 Members Liaison Report
There have been a few requests for cards this month.

25.188 Treasurer's Report
The report was noted as was the healthy reserves.

25.189 Business Secretary Report
The report was circulated in advance to all; the following are the actions from the report.

(i) Free copies of 'u3a' Matters to use in recruitment.
Action: Tania to follow up in January 2026

(ii) Publicity support grant details
Action: Tania to follow up in January 2026

(iii) Network of PR volunteers
Action: Tania to follow up in January 2026

(iv) National Satisfaction Survey – noted that this had been circulated to Chairs only in June 2025 with a request not to forward to the membership.

25.190 Membership Secretary Report
We now have 300. 14 of these are associates.

25.191 Speaker Secretary Report
Speakers are now booked through until September 2026.

25.192 Group Co-ordinator Report
We now have 34 groups including the new Tai Chi beginners on Wednesday mornings. Monday Tai Chi group has a waiting list of 5. Monthly meeting group leader talks are going well. In January 2026 Derek will speak of the Kurling Group and Helen on the Environmental role. It is suggested that committee members speak of their role and activities to encourage more members to volunteer for the committee. By February AGM, committee membership will be a hot topic so new volunteers are to be encouraged.
Action: Ian to speak with Pauline in respect of her role as Liaison Secretary

25.193 PR Update
This was largely included within the Business Secretary report.

25.194 Environment Update
Nothing new to report.

25.195 IT/Website Update
The website has been updated. Podbites – on the podcast page – has four podcasts; an introduction from John, two on the Bridge Group; and one on the Short Story Competition with our member Brian Denton reading his winning story. Noted that those accessing the website has reduced by one third, this is due to seasonal fluctuation. Group Leader training had included information on the website.

25.196 Regional & Network Update including u3a Day 12th May 2026
This is progressing. Derek had attended the Ushaw visit and had seen the timetable and layout suggestions. During January the business secretaries will be advised of the planned activities. A charge of £25 per person will apply to all attendees who will all be u3a members, including those contributing to performances etc. This covers the cost of coffee and lunch. Guided tours of the building, a number of walks of different durations, musical acts, talks and demonstrations will run all of the day. The event will comfortably hold 200. More details such as tickets will be available by mid-January.

25.197 Christmas Monthly Meeting Review
The Christmas event, food and singers had received many compliments from members. The table layouts and seating numbers were very good. Finance reported that a subsidy of £4.23 per ticket was required. A total income of £972, with a total cost of £1539.27 meant a cost of £567.27 to the u3a. Sheila's Kitchen food and food presentation was considered excellent and are recommended as the 2026 caterers.

26.198 Any other business
Action: John to contact the Stella to remind them of the delayed January meeting date of 8th January 2026.
Action: Jackie is to contact the January speaker to confirm the dates.