Washington Village U3A Committee

Scout Hut 10.00am – 15TH January 2026

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

26.01 Welcome
The Chair welcomed Committee members to the meeting and thanked outgoing liaison officer, Pauline Palmer for her contribution to the committee.

26.02 Apologies
None

26.03 Minutes of the meeting of 15th December 2025 were considered and minor errors being addressed, acceptance was proposed by Lyn, seconded by Derek and approved by all.

26.04 Matters arising

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

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

25.189(ii) Publicity support grant details
**Resolved: Tania to follow up in January 2026**

25.189(iii) Network of PR volunteers
**Resolved: Tania to follow up in January 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 five. 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.
**Resolved: Ian has spoken with Pauline in respect of her role as Liaison Secretary and Ann Dodds is moving forward into the role.**

26.05 Speaker Secretary report
January speaker got the timing wrong but otherwise was fine. There had been good feedback from those who spoke to the speaker afterwards for more information. A speaker on the topics of wills, trust and similar legal issues is to be sought from Age UK, possibly combined with another speaker if the talk should be too brief. Beach Clear and Environment speaker is booked in October, this speaker also has links to Paws for Thought.
**Action: Jackie to pursue a speaker from Age UK on wills; trusts and related legal issues etc.**

26.07 Treasurer Report

- MONTHLY REPORT: as presented. No charges from Lloyds yet.
- ANNUAL INCOME: if our annual income exceeds £25000 we have to submit in a more extensive report to the Charity Commission.
  - To end of December our total income is £22,385.34. We can set the full members' capitation fee to TAT against our income. Currently that would reduce it by £4x290 =£1080. To add to that will be £533 GiftAid from HMRC plus additional income primarily from new members (minimal) and groups. On average monthly group income is £1300, it's varied between £500 and £2300. We have 3 months income left to add for this financial year. We may get the £2000 "activities" grant we've applied for. To reduce the chance of exceeding £25k groups should use up accrued balances thus reducing new income into groups: at the end of December there was £1,532.52 in group's accrued balances.
    **Action: Helen** to notify Group Leaders to reduce group surplus if possible between now and the end of March.
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- END OF YEAR ROLL OVER: In terms of accounting and the ledger I propose we set up an account "end of year accrued group balances".
  - On 31st March I'd transfer each group's total accrued balance into this account.
  - On 1st April I'd transfer each balance back into the relevant group.
    Thus each group would start the financial year with its total accrued balance as a transaction in the main account ledger. And GLs could monitor their finances throughout the year using the ledger to see an accurate reflection of their funds.

Helen's proposal with Ian seconding to create an end of year accrued group balance was discussed at length by the committee and unanimously agreed by all.
26.08 Business Secretary Report
An email has been sent out asking if anyone wants to join the national committee.

26.09 Membership Secretary Report
We now have 307 members as three new members joined this morning.

26.10 Member Liaison Report
All documentation having been forwarded, Anne Dodds has now assumed the role. No cards have been sent this month.
**Action: John to email members and announce at next meeting the change of liaison officer.**

26.11 Group Co-ordinator Report
We now have 35 groups with the new Shanty Group starting this week, they will meet on the first and third Monday of each month. The Tai Chi group now has 40 members. Ian

will be doing a demo at the Regional Event. Group Leader brief talks at the monthly meeting are deemed a success, with Lyn speaking next month, so too will Ann on the topic of her motives for joining the u3a and her role as liaison officer. Tania will speak at March meeting about CAMEO.

26.12 PR Update
Email has been received from Sunderland council, who are bringing together all social and entertainment groups for over 50s in the Sunderland area. We have missed the current edition but will be listed within the next edition. The information provided will articulate the requirement to be a u3a member being joining any group.

26.13 Environment Update
Helen spoke at monthly meeting and sent an email about environment and environmental officer role. Bill Hird and Ann Dodds both volunteered to take on the role. She suggested meeting with them to agree a way forward (probably before/after Monday's Tai Chi class).

26.14 IT/Website Update
Updated website and added Tai Chi Beginners (Wednesday), change to other to Tai Chi (intermediate) and Tai Chi (Advanced), also added Shanty Singers group,

- Added Podbites page with current podcasts, also added specific podcasts to relevant group pages
- Changed Member Liaison from Pauline to Ann.
- Visits to website have picked up since new year. A spike after the monthly meeting on 8th.
- N.B. Powerpoint of groups used during monthly meeting needs to be updated as there have been changes in groups and GLs over the last few months.

**Action: Lyn to update the slide show**

26.15 Regional & Network Update including u3a Day 12th May 2026
This is progressing:
Derek informed that information related to the event was expected to be circulated at the end of the month. A working group had organized the day. Noted that five rooms each having five sessions of activities are planned. The small size of the rooms and number of attendees caused concern particularly if the tickets are first come first served at the time of booking and that the plan was for attendees to select first and second choices of events. Cost is to be £25 which will include a hot lunch and tea/coffee; £10 if no lunch is required. Noted that all presenters must also pay the fee therefore it is suggested that our u3a fund any presenters, noting that two are confirmed, this was unanimously agreed. Also advised by Northumbria Region that two thousand Pounds had been ring fenced. It was commented that Ian Cassidy, CEO will give the opening address.
**Action: John to notify Ged his fee will be paid for presenting at u3a day..**

The Chairs Forum had discussed setting membership fees for next year and during the discussion it was noted that some u3a's have tiered membership where the top tier, gold, included all fees to groups attended so no further payment would be required. The membership numbers size of u3as was included within the discussion. The set up of the website and the age difference of those who used it also discussed in the context of setting membership forms for online completion.

26.16 Any other business

Washington Wildfowl Trust and Newcastle Castle had each contacted the u3a to advertise volunteers for their organisations.  We do have a 'plus' page on our website for this type of related activity however it is noted the Charity Commission does not permit us to directly promote these activities.