Washington Village U3A Committee Scout Hut 10.00am, 17 September 2026

1. Welcome
Welcome from the chair to members attending the September meeting.
Attending: John Edwards, Helen Edwards, Richard Mulvey, Jackie Robinson, Ian McIntosh, Lyn Bossons, Tania Le Marinel, Maggi Porter, Bill Hird, Ann Dodds.

2. Apologies: Derek Ginsberg

3. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20th August 2026
Acceptance of last month's minutes proposed by John and seconded by Helen

4. Matters arising from previous minutes not elsewhere on the agenda
Environment No update
26.53 Ongoing: Bill to send out U3a Environment Policy to Group Leaders

5. Treasurer's Report
Helen talked through the accounts for August including 7 new members' subs paid in July, October Social Event payments and Day Trip monies paid, Spanish Class paid monthly in advance.
Payment for Annual CLA Licence in August (photocopying).

6. Social Event in the Autumn
Agenda for event shown and it was agreed that it should work well, a trial run was suggested and agreed. Concerns are: Projector position for shanty refrains - could singers work from dance floor? will we have a cleared stage?
Action: John to contact The Stella to find out availability of the hall for rehearsal, and to message groups with date and time.
Food options decided, delivery to be at 1:30 - 1:45 via side door.
Art Group - projections with original musical background/ drawing competition
June has written a u3a song, it could be used for the background music.
Bridge Group - Play Your Cards Right, needs a table on dance floor area to work from.
130 tickets have been distributed, 129 paid for, plus 3 booked with payment due.
Jackie and Ann to take tickets at the door.
Quiz will be a paper on tables, small tables @1 sheet per table of 4, larger tables 2- 3 sheets (no prizes).

7. Christmas Monthly Meeting
Food - last year tickets were £5 pp but £10 cost to u3a. Gift Aid is allowed if there is no benefit to donor, so we need to raise the cost to reduce the subsidy.
Tania arranged for £10 buffet and the majority of the committee agreed on £7 pp charge this year.
Entertainment is booked, same as last year, a singer with backing.
Raffle prizes to be requested - will be discussed further at the next Committee meeting. Prizes to be donated on the day.
Event tickets to go on sale at October and November Meeting.
Action: Tania to design tickets before her holiday

8. Business Secretary Report.
A vote was held on a TAT Board Representative based on their personal statements previously sent to Committee who voted for Jill McLaughlin.
Action: Tania to arrange our proxy vote.

Vote on AGM Resolution re advocacy, campaigning and public policy. We discussed this fully and everyone agreed on option c: to support the amendment to ensure TAT cannot move into campaigning and advocacy without consultation with u3as.
Action: Tania to give our proxy vote to Houghton u3a

9. Regional and Network Update
Derek to attend the Quarterly Regional & Network meeting which has a new Chair.
There is still an issue with communications, John has registered issues with 2 people regarding Comms not being received by him (and others), there are 2 email lists, Tania does receive Comms so she will pass on everything to John until issue is resolved.
For Friday's NE Regional meeting, John received a report for it but had no notice of meeting, he had to request details but missed the meeting as no notice was given.
The 5 Chairs in our network were asked to discuss changes but only Audrey from Houghton replied.
John and Derek will attend a meeting in Newcastle on 2 November to look at Succession Planning (Comms issues here too as only Tania received details and was able to get tickets on iPad). An Issue for us and other u3a"s has been raised at National level.
Lyn attended Treasurer's Network Meeting. Cathy Clegg mentioned revised planning and role descriptions as TAT had produced a new one-page document on the website. This is not available to all so we will look at this at a future committee meeting.
Gift Aid - HMRC are likely to scrutinise u3a to ensure compliance.
U3a "Oversights", linked to "SiteWorks" - 700 u3as use the website database, of

groups in NE, out of 45 - only 1 used. Use Google ""U3A Oversights"" to visit.
Action: Helen to add u3a Oversights to our website.

Last month, John found out about a Zoom meeting for Chairs from a Network member - Chairs had not been informed.
26.62 Ongoing: John to contact Network Chairs to arrange another meeting. Update - message sent, no response received. Update: Replies received but no mutually convenient date agreed, still trying.

10. Group Co-ordinator's Report
There are currently 37 groups. 2 rooms have been used for new group start-ups.
Crispin will talk about the Theatre Group at the next monthly meeting, and Derek will talk about Regional groups.
Suggested Pilates session is not viable at £8 per session so this will not go ahead.
A new group, Exercise for Seniors is being considered, also technology group - John is ok for android technology.
Group Leader training is proposed for November, including Etiquette for WhatsApp group.
Action: John to circulate Etiquette for WhatsApp, to be discussed at next Committee meeting.

11. PR Update
Tania applied for and has now received the £250 grant for our u3a PR costs. A survey of the committee using proposed options on how to use this money resulted in content of new PR material being decided. Tania will use the results to produce draft material for approval.
Action: Resolved. Tania to send drafts to committee for consideration and comments. They can have a QR code included, Tania to check costs.

12. Speaker Secretary Report
Last month's speaker cancelled the day before our meeting due to being hospitalised but the agent hadn't informed us. This was resolved, after several options being tried, by arranging for a previous speaker to return on a different subject.
Future talk possibilities are for The Blood Bank, a charity (with donation tin) or Evergreen, a great band worth keeping in mind.

13. IT Website Update
Helen sent out the Policy on the use of u3a Gmail role accounts last month for committee to review at next month's meeting.
Website updated on groups. (We are one of five u3a's having a fishing group)
Group Leaders have responded to Beacon links eg Ledger. There was some confusion but Helen has helped.

People are using the Contacts Form.

14. Member's Liaison Report
Two members were ill this month, one was sent an eCard by Lyn because he was away from home, in hospital. Lyn is happy to arrange the same in future for anyone taking ill away from home.
One member died this month, John has sent funeral details for anyone who wants to attend.

15. Membership Secretary's Report
Currently there are 337 members and two enquiries awaiting form returns.
A question was asked: Are new members able to try a session to find out if it would suit them? Yes, but only one complimentary session is allowed across all groups.
The Group Leader also pays for their session, all costs must be borne equally.
Lyn sent a Washington Village Consortium Membership Form - suggested for use to record neighbouring members attending our groups. Only 4 members from other groups are registered in our groups. This registration would mean all Local Network members can receive Comms from GLs, etc from mailing lists when sent to WVu3a members. Also, it would confirm the Local Network members are still members in their own U3A. Lyn shared this suggestion at the Network meeting.
Action: Lyn to change of wording from Consortium Member to Network Member.

16. AOB
Best Practice for U3A activities - feedback from monthly meeting discussed.
John will confirm again to members that we still have the room at the end of the meeting if members wished to socialise and chat.
Christmas meal for Committee, would December or January be preferred? - to decide next month.
Last year WVu3a laid a wreath at the Remembrance Sunday memorial. Should we do this again? We can discuss this next month.
Action: Helen to arrange Poppy Wreath.
Bill is to shadow the Treasurer's role and needs to be formally Co-opted onto the committee.
Maggi has been formally Co-opted for events.

Next Committee Meeting is 15th October 2026