

Grange and District u3a

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held on Friday 15 November 2024 in Room 4, Victoria Hall

	ACTION
<p>Present Hilary Wade (Chair), Brian Loader (Groups Co-ordinator), Janet Tabarandak, Michael McCormick (Treasurer), Susan Jones (acting Secretary), Julia Nicholson, Mick Love, Margaret Brennand (taking minutes). Erline Robinson attended for items 1-4.</p> <p>1.Apologies – Ameer Tabarandak, Roger Handley and Tricia Thomas.</p> <p>2. Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 11 October 2024) These were agreed and signed by Hilary Wade.</p> <p>3. Matters Arising <u>Outstanding Actions:</u></p> <p>Item 6a from 11 August minutes – Susan Jones to send the application form for 2024-25 Licence to Michael McCormick.</p> <p>Items 7 new computer for Newsletter Editor- purchased.</p> <p>Item 8 volunteers for blind project – Hilary Wade had written to person involved.</p> <p>Item 9a poppy wreath – Brian Loader thanked the Committee for the donation for the poppy wreath. Hilary gave thanks to Tricia Thomas for attending the church service and laying the wreath on behalf of the u3a.</p> <p>Item 9b Christmas Tree – Hilary said this was underway and there would be a brief meeting afterwards for those involved.</p> <p>Item 9c – storage for u3a items – Brian said he hadn't taken this forward as he needed more details on how many items required storage. He was also going to speak to Keith Dobson about storage Dobsons offer. Susan Jones said that Jed Jones wasn't sure that he had the Asset Register. Action: Michael McCormick to check amongst his files</p> <p>Item 9e – social prescribing – Margaret Brennand had spoken to staff at the Nutwood Surgery but didn't feel there was a great deal of interest in taking this initiative forward again. Committee agreed to leave this issue for the time being.</p> <p>All other actions completed.</p>	<p>SJ</p> <p>MM</p>

4. Newsletter – Erline Robinson

Erline reported that she had plenty of articles for the next newsletter and was just waiting for the Chairman's piece and the revised centre page spread of information. Hilary said she would get her Report finished over the weekend. Brian passed the centre pages of information with several revisions for Susan to check.

Action: after checking Susan Jones to pass revised pages to Erline.

SJ

Erline said she liked the new laptop – bigger keyboard and screen. Getting used to the new software was taking time but this would improve for future issues. She was a little frustrated that contributors kept forgetting to submit their reports in A5 format and send photos separately.

Susan Jones asked if the death of Malcolm Mclver would be noted. Hilary replied that she would include this in her Report. Hilary added that she did attend his funeral.

5. Membership update

Susan Jones reported that there were now 523 members, 5 new since last October.

A member had complained at receiving the latest issue of the National u3a magazine because he had opted out of receiving it. Susan not sure how this had happened as the u3a Trust use the membership database to send out the magazine and it should be clear who should receive it.

6. Finance

Michael McCormick had circulated Beacon accounts in advance of the meeting.

He said that he had paid for the coach to York. A few refunds were due, and one member wanted to be refunded by cheque. **Committee agreed** that any future refunds to members would be by BACs payment, irrespective of how the member originally paid.

Michael reported that the new laptop had cost £341 and he had taken out a 3 year "return to base" warranty at £49 per year, direct with Hewlett Packard. He had also taken out a year's licence for MicroSoft Office 365 which would renew automatically each year at a cost of £59. For a further £20 a year he can add the other u3a laptop to this deal. The **Committee agreed** he should do so.

Michael said he was having difficulty paying the Dock Museum for a recent u3a visit as Westmorland and Furness Council seemed reluctant to take this forward unless the u3a signed up as an "approved supplier". He had heard nothing since 14 October. **Committee agreed** that Michael should simply send them a cheque for £150.

Action: Hilary to counter-sign cheque and Michael to post out.

HW, MM

7. Group Leaders/Co-ordinators

Brian Loader reported that his main focus in the last month was to bring the newsletter's centre pages of information up to date. Once published then both Beacon and the website can be updated.

He confirmed that the old tennis table had been sold.

7. Group Leaders/Co-ordinators cont'd

Brian added that he still had a few Handbooks to hand out to group leaders. Mick Love confirmed that he needed one.

Action: Susan Jones to pass Handbook to Mick Love

SJ

Phil Nicholson was in process of handing over to Sue Gill as webmaster. He had asked group leaders to check their information on the website. **Committee agreed** to invite Sue to the January Committee meeting and then subsequent ones on a quarterly basis. In between meetings Sue should liaise with the Secretary.

Committee also agreed to introduce Sue to members at the February monthly meeting.

Action: Susan Jones to invite Sue Gill to January Committee meeting and note for February monthly meeting.

SJ

Phil had also reported that there needs to be a bit more information on the website. Hilary Wade suggested that Group Leaders report about their groups on the website.

8. AOB

a. Attendance at meetings

It was noted that the pre-Covid levels of 100-120 members attending monthly meetings was not being matched. There are usually 80 on average at meetings. Many members have never been to a meeting. Hilary Wade suggested considering the approach of Furness u3a who hold formal monthly meetings with a speaker but in between a drop-in meeting with refreshments where there is usually someone on hand to give IT advice and one or two Group representatives to explain more about their group activities. It seemed to work very well, giving members two chances a month to meet up with other members.

b. Speakers for 2025

Hilary said she had received an email from Morag Hill detailing the speakers for 2025. She had suggested that the meeting in December could be the official celebration for our 25-year anniversary rather than holding it in September. The **Committee agreed** that this was a good idea and **agreed** to make it a ticketed event (charging £5) to ensure some commitment to attend and give organisers an idea of numbers for catering purposes.

c. Speakers

Hilary said she would remind Morag Hill to remind members about forthcoming speakers the weekend before the monthly meeting. Morag would also remind speakers that their talks should be no longer than 50 minutes. If a speaker was going on beyond their time then the Meeting Chair should suggest that questions are taken to the speaker after the talk.

d. December meeting

Action: Hilary Wade to speak to Jean Waiteson about mince pies

HW

e. Help with refreshments

Hilary confirmed that Sara Jane and John Davis now had 3 volunteers to help them.

8. AOB cont'd

f. Ged Jones

Susan Jones confirmed that Ged would be able to resume duties as Secretary from January 2025. This meant that Margaret Brennand could step down as Minute Secretary. Hilary thanked Margaret for her assistance. **Committee agreed** to co-opt Ged on to the Committee from January 2025..

No further business. Meeting ended 11.40am.

Date of next Meeting

Friday 13 December 2024 10.30am (apologies from Margaret Brennand - Susan Jones to take minutes)