

Grange & District u3a

Minutes of Committee Meeting

Held on Friday 17 January 2025 in Room 4, Victoria Hall

	ACTION
<p>Present Hilary Wade, Tricia Thomas, Michael McCormick, Susan Jones, Roger Handley, Brian Loader, Mick Love, Ameer Tabarandak, Janet Tabarandak. Sue Gill, Erline Robinson (part time) Ged Jones</p> <p>Apologies Julia Nicholson</p> <p>1 Minutes of the previous meeting (held on 13 December 2024) The minutes of the December meeting were accepted</p> <p>2 Matters Arising/Actions Check The CLA licence has been obtained.</p> <p>Ged to circulate the asset register to members of the committee [Post meeting note: Ged has circulated the asset register]</p> <p>Brian is continuing to explore whether the room attached to the toilets in the Ornamental Gardens is suitable to store some of our bulkier u3a assets. Another group is already using the room for storage so it is a question of whether there is sufficient available space remaining to accommodate our assets.</p> <p>The handover of the role of webmaster from Phil Nicholson to Sue Gill is now complete. Hilary welcomed Sue Gill to the meeting and, on behalf of everybody, thanked her for taking on the role of Webmaster.</p> <p>The committee recorded its thanks to Phil for all his efforts as our Webmaster and for ensuring a smooth transition to Sue.</p> <p>At the December meeting there had been a brief discussion on the merits of reviving the digital diary which Roger had produced during the Covid lockdowns. It was agreed that producing a digital diary in addition to the quarterly newsletter would be a good way of updating our members on events/items which might not be covered by our communications policy. However, Roger is not able to take on the role of “publisher” because of his many other commitments</p> <p>Therefore, Ged will canvass the membership for a volunteer to take on the role of editor of the digital diary. [Post meeting note: Ged has sent an email to all members to seek a volunteer to take on the digital diary.]</p> <p>Hilary thanked Michael for organising the raffle at our December meeting and the committee thanked Hilary and Janet for the entertainment at the December meeting.</p>	<p>Ged</p> <p>Ged</p>

3 Newsletter

Erline asked for feedback regarding the new format for the newsletter. The consensus was that it was worth trying but the older format was preferable, primarily because the cover photograph was not as clear as previously. Erline pointed out that the software package used to produce the newsletter does not allow the aspect ratio of photographs to be changed which is what creates the issue of less clear photographs. Nevertheless, Erline will try another format.

It was agreed that Hilary and Erline would discuss the "events page" of the newsletter. Sue Gill pointed out that all speaker events are now on the website.

Hilary /
Erline

The committee thanked Erline for her hard work in producing the newsletter..

Sue Jones pointed out that the next newsletter is to be issued in February. As Enrolment Day has been brought forward from March Sue J will remind members of the event via email rather than via a note in the newsletter

Sue J

4 Membership

Susan had circulated the membership statistics prior to the meeting and reported that we now have 531 members (of whom 18 are associate members, 9 are reciprocal members and 7 are new members).

5 Website update

Hilary formally introduced Sue Gill as our new Webmaster.

6 Finance

Michael had circulated a report prior to the meeting and the accounts were accepted.

Michael is still awaiting an invoice from the Dock Museum in Barrow.

The Committee agreed that the maximum cash holding be raised from £50 to £200.

As we're approaching the 7year limit for Gift Aid for lapsed members they will now be permanently deleted from Beacon.

7 Group Coordinators/Leaders (GC/Ls)

Steve Jones will take over leadership of the Social Tennis group (from David Houghton) in February. The group will play outside year-round weather permitting. In the event of inclement weather the group will play indoors at Holker hall.

David Houghton is interested in starting a new music group based on Jazz. Brian will canvass the membership to gauge interest

Brian

Brian will be the single point of truth for the centre spread and he will inform Erline Sue Gill (website), Peter Webber (Beacon) and Ged (newsletter) of any changes.

Brian had been contacted by a member to ask if we could inform the membership of an event at Cartmel priory in May and the committee agreed to this request.

8 Enrolment day

Brian confirmed that the Victoria Hall was available on the afternoon of 18 February for the GCLs meeting, Brian also informed the committee that access to the Main Hall was available on the evening of Monday 17 February to allow the tables to be set up. It was agreed to meet at 6:00pm to set up.

Brian has contacted GCLs to invite them to be present on Enrolment day and he has had an encouraging response and he estimates 25 groups will be represented. He will send a further reminder to see if there is any further interest. He will also confirm the closing date for requests to attend. Any requests received after this date may not be accommodated.

Brian

When final attendees are confirmed Brian, Sue Jones and Ged will meet to plan the layout

Brian/
Sue J Ged

Sue Gill and Peter Webber will be invited to the GCLs meeting to answer any questions on the website and/or Beacon.

It was agreed that “helpers” on Enrolment Day will be invited to the lunch preceding the GCLs meeting.

Hilary agreed to investigate catering options for the lunch.

Hilary

The u3a flag will be brought along to Enrolment day

9 Annual General Meeting

Ged informed the meeting that Julia is planning to step down at this year’s AGM. The committee thanked Julia for all her hard work during her tenure.

With Julia’s resignation there will be a vacancy on the committee along with vacancies for Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Honorary Secretary. Michael pointed out that his tenure ends in 2026 and we will need a replacement. The role of Treasurer is fundamental to the existence of Grange u3a; “no Treasurer, no u3a”. It was agreed we need to redouble our efforts to find a Deputy Treasurer to shadow and support Michael until the AGM in 2026.

It was agreed that we formalise the role of Deputy Treasurer so it becomes an honorary officer. The Deputy Treasurer must be an officer to enable access to our bank accounts. This will require a change to our Constitution which Ged will draft and circulate to the committee for comment prior to putting it to the membership at the AGM

Ged

10 Any Other Business (AOB)

Tricia suggested starting our general meetings at 10:30 as this better fit in with the bus timetable and may allow more members to attend. It was agreed to add this to the February Agenda.

Ged

11 Date of next meeting

Friday 14 February 2025, Room 4, Victoria Hall