Lostwithiel Area u3a Committee Meeting: Tuesday 9th June 2026

Present: Andrew Currie (chairing meeting), Steph Thomas, Karen Dickin, Sheila Mackinder, Francoise Currie, Dave Bridges, David Platt, Zeb Banks, Liz Hemsley, Duncan Elliott (guest).

Apologies: Lalita Madhavani.

Correspondence: Nothing to report.

Acceptance of minutes of previous meeting: Minutes of 20th February and 29th April meetings accepted as final versions.

Minutes of last meeting: Updates/ongoing matters

- **Uploading revised Constitution to Charity Commission website:** David P continuing to work to resolve and complete action, with Karen's help post AGM.
- **Help with technology set up for future Open Meetings:** Gaynor Williams and Michael Furminger have come forward in response to request for help mentioned in recent Newsletter. Gaynor has had her training with Mark at May Open Meeting; Michael hopes to attend July meeting and is already familiar with the Church Rooms set up.
- **Alternative signatories for Bank Account:** David P and Lalita working to sort this out; Francoise now set up, Andrew, in hand.
- **Replacement for Daniel Chapman required to examine next year's accounts:** Daniel has kindly agreed to continue for a further year, free of charge. David P suggested that we need to formally thank Daniel.
- **Website - refresh of rotating images displayed on the front page of the website:** David (previously Annie) to pick up action to ask Group Leaders/contacts to choose – ideally – a pre-existing photograph from the website for their group. **Action: David.**
- **Updating trifold leaflet:** Currently with Palace Printers; 200 copies ordered for collection in next few days. (Larger order than previously noted; extra copies required for post-AGM committee members' usage).
- **Purchase of 2 x u3a branded roller banners:** Banners ordered/action completed.
- **Community slot for future Open Meetings:** September – LEAF (Lostwithiel Environmental Action Forum); arranged by Richard Bower, Mark Pearson, Chair – LEAF, to talk about Bathing Water Status, which has recently been granted.

Co-option of new Committee Member

Richard Bower has regrettably resigned from the committee, providing the opportunity to make another co-option. Michael Hunter, our anticipated Treasurer following the forthcoming AGM, was proposed and seconded to be co-opted as a new committee member in advance of the AGM, to facilitate a smooth handover with the outgoing Treasurer. With unanimous agreement of those present, Michael was duly appointed to the committee.

Most recent Open Meeting attendance figures

11th May: 27 members, 6 non-members.

Zeb wished to pass on thanks to the speaker, Mark Hemsley, for his informative talk on the History of TV News, which had been very well received with much positive feedback.

Dates for 2027 Open Meetings/Booking of Church Rooms

Dates agreed at previous meeting (4th January; 1st March; 10th May (AGM); 5th July; 6th September; 1st November). **Action: Dave B to book Church Rooms for these dates.** (Subsequent to meeting, booking has now been made by Dave).

Officers' updates

Reports/updates issued with agenda and were discussed.

Groups Co-ordinator, David

Regarding suggested new groups, David asked about any contacts for Line Dancing and Travel groups and some suggestions were made. Also, a further new group idea – Rummikub – from a member of the Lunch Group (who is prepared to lead) is being pursued.

Publicity Officer, Karen

Karen flagged that if she takes on the Secretary role post-AGM, someone to replace her to take on Publicity will be needed. Including a link in the Newsletter to the group pages on the website would be a way to save time/work for the Publicity Officer, negating the need to trawl the website for group news/updates.

Speaker Secretary, Dave

Dave reported that the speaker for the July Open Meeting was no longer available and a replacement would need to be found. **Action: David P to pursue a contact known to him.** (Subsequent to meeting, Dr Keith Hiscock MBE, a renowned Marine Biologist, lined up by David P as speaker for July meeting).

Membership Secretary, Steph

Current membership 265; 2 new members since last committee report (29th April). Although membership numbers are a little down on previous years it should be noted that during the last subscription year there were 41 new members and the membership is therefore likely to increase during the rest of the year.

As Steph is standing down from the committee at the AGM, she thanked committee members, past and present, for their support during the last 3 years.

Treasurer, Lalita

Statement of Accounts provided by Lalita in her absence:

As of 2nd June, we currently hold a balance of £5,852.07 in current account, and £5,054.98 in deposit holding account. Plus £309.53 in Interest Group Cash Accounts, £62.39 in PayPal account and £131.07 Petty Cash. **Total: £11,410.04.**

Recruitment to Committee roles

As above, we anticipate that we will have nominees for all but the Publicity Officer role. Suggestion that the various tasks of the Publicity Officer role could be shared by more than one person if necessary.

Arrangements for AGM

Francoise will compere the AGM; David P and Francoise will prepare the content of the presentation and Mark Hemsley has offered to help with the creative design element of the slides and will also be available on the day for set up of laptop and audio-visual equipment.

Although standing down at the AGM, Liz will do the minutes, and Lalita has confirmed that she will also be there and will present the 2025-2026 Accounts.

Seating arrangements and timing of teas/coffees was discussed. It was agreed that for the AGM we will revert to rows of seating rather than tables and chairs, with drinks at the end. Future arrangements for Open Meetings to be reviewed/discussed at next committee meeting.

David thanked those leaving the committee (Annie, Steph, Lalita, Liz) for all their hard work.

Ways to spend funds to benefit all our Groups/Members (carried forward from previous meetings)

So far, funding for First Aid/CPR training has been provided. Other ideas to spend funds welcome and should continue as a standing item on the agenda.

As a point of clarification, expenditure for a group (e.g. printer paper) should be self-funded by the group members, as agreed at a previous committee meeting when the former Capital Grant Scheme was withdrawn. The exceptions to this principle are for the purchase of First Aid Kits for relevant groups that need them for Risk Assessment compliance.

Lostwithiel "Charity Sunday Funday" – Sunday 26th July

David P will represent our u3a, with Karen helping him set up and Duncan will be available to help at the end of the day. David welcomed any extra support if any other committee members can spare some time. Details of start and finish times etc tbc.

Dates/venues of future committee meetings

Dates agreed as follows with Royal Oak booked by Sheila:

Wednesday 19th August at 11.00 am – Royal Oak

Wednesday 21st October at 11.00 am – Royal Oak

Wednesday 9th December at 11.00 am, followed by lunch – Royal Oak

AOB

- Home for u3a laptop and Audio-visual kit post July Open Meeting/AGM (Currently with Liz and Mark)? David P agreed to look after the technical kit and already houses various items of u3a property.
- Volunteers for the August Beverage n' Banter (Monday 3rd August, 11 am, Fowey Valley Hotel) to meet some members of Liskeard u3a? Andrew, Francoise, Duncan, and Zeb (probably), will join David to host and welcome the Liskeard u3a visitors.
- Communication from Hall for Cornwall offering group rates and discounts to bookers on most shows. Sheila to share details/follow up with the Theatre group.
- Query about who has responsibility for giving out passwords and permissions for website and Beacon.