



Northumbria Region u3a

Zoom Committee Meeting

18th February 2022

From 14.00 – 16.30

Present: - Mo Brown (MAB), Cecilia Coulson (CC), Mike Wallace (MMW), Peter Barnett (PB), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Ann Carr (AC), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Apologies: - Sandi Rickerby (SR)

Welcome: - Mo Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: - Agreed as accurate.

Matters Arising: - Items to be brought up at appropriate place in meeting.

Reports: -

Chair (MAB): - Report circulated.

Regarding the distribution of reports before the meeting they are intended to be read and commented on prior to the meeting.

Review of Policies. These were not reviewed previously due to Covid restrictions and it is proposed that a short-term working group be set up. The committee agreed as it will get other u3a members involved.

CC asked how many u3as had policies and how often were they reviewed? MAB said there were suggested policies on the national website for u3as to use.

Cecilia Coulson has agreed to take over the chair when MAB term of office ends.

MAB confirmed that the insurance policy that the u3a has covers Northumbria u3a.

Three Year Plan. Andrew Freckingham and Christa Lloyd are being asked to look at update the plan.

Financial Side of Beacon. It was suggested a talk by Alan Swinburn for potential and new users of the system would be useful. It was recommended that it may be useful to put this to the Treasurers Network. MMW has agreed

to do this. AC thought it would be a useful to have a competent user pair up with a new member when starting to use the system. It was noted that Beacon does have a forum for members which is well used.

Speakers Lists. MAB asked PB if he had a response from Jeff Armstrong (JA) regarding an updated list. PB informed the committee that no response had been received. CC and MEB have both forwarded emails to JA providing possible new names for the list and requests for the list neither have received any confirmations of receipt of emails. PB to try and contact JA again.

Expenses for Working Groups. MMW confirmed the current rate is 45p per mile and stated that the form used needs to be updated.

Committee Meetings. It was suggested that u3a members are extended an invitation to attend not only regional but their own u3a meetings as observers, provided nothing confidential or personal is being discussed.

Business Secretary (MEB): - Organisation of the AGM is being brought up as a separate item later in the meeting.

Treasurer (MMW): - Two reports have been circulated regarding the proposed year end accounts.

A total of 84p interest has been accrued during the financial year.

Subscriptions. These have not been collected during the last two years due to the pandemic and most u3as meeting via Zoom. It is proposed to reinstate them this year as u3as are re-opening. It was recommended that it be kept at the 2019 rate. This was agreed by the committee and will be put to the AGM.

Budgets. It was noted the National Office recommends that after proposed expenses that u3as have 3 to 6 months funds in hand. It was decided by the committee that the Events Working Group would require a budget and a working budget of £1k was agreed.

Events (CC): - Various emails have been circulated to committee members and u3as since the last meeting detailing events being held.

Communications (PB): - Issues regarding Speakers List addressed above.

Messenger (MEB): - Next issue due in April and with u3as opening up we hope to include more articles. It was agreed that Messenger would remain on-line for the foreseeable future.

Regional Trustee (SR): - No report.

Working Groups: -

Hybrid Meeting (MMW): - No report.

Beacon (MMW): - No report.

Image Bank (MEB): - No report.

New Working Groups (MAB): - Due to lack of time it was decided to discuss this at the next meeting.

Preparations for the AGM (MAB): - It was agreed to use Sunnyside Club and CC will liaise with them. CC is aware of a local firm that does catering and will liaise with them regarding cost and numbers.

As Sunnyside Club is unavailable at the moment for use on a Wednesday it was decided to change the date of the meeting to Monday 25th April in the hope it would assist more members to attend either in person or via Zoom.

It was agreed to ask Dr Robert Pullen to be the speaker with the topic being Sleep and DAreams.

As members had other engagements to attend it was agreed to reconvene the following Monday 21st February at 17.00.

The reconvened meeting was held from 17.00 to 18.30 with the same members attending.

Further preparations for the AGM.

Voting – As this is to be the region's first hybrid AGM it was agreed that a Google voting form will be used. This form will be sent out with the Nomination/Resolution/Motion form and must be returned by the end of 25th April. There will be four places on the form to vote. One being for election of committee members and the other places for resolutions/motions. Due to some forms not being returned until the evening of the meeting it will not be possible to give the results until some days later when votes are counted and a check is made that no u3a has mistakenly entered a form twice. Priority of votes will be given to those in the venue, followed by those on Zoom and lastly via Google forms.

MAB asked that CC provide committee members with full booking details e.g., names and phone numbers of contacts at Sunnyside Club and the caterers in case she found herself unable to attend the meeting.

It was agreed that all members attending the meeting will be charged £8.00, £6.00 for food and £2.00 venue plus tea/coffee. Members wishing to attend in person will be asked to give their name, u3a and prepay. MMW has agreed to collect the monies. Members who are vegan or have allergies will be asked to note this on the form.

Committee members noticed that some people who are quick eaters are able to get second helpings before some have had first. It was therefore decided that members taking lunch will be given a raffle ticket when they arrive which they will then hand over as they go for their plate of food and no second helpings given until all tickets are counted to show that everyone has had a first helping.

MMW will see copies of the region's examined accounts are ready to be sent out with the final papers on 4th April 2022.

Equipment. CC informed the meeting that the Club has microphones and speakers but is unsure if they have a loop system but will check.

It was agreed that various committee members would arrange to visit the club to see the suitability of the venue and check the system for using Zoom.

CC has agreed to ask Whickham and District u3a along with Derwentside if they had members willing to come along and assist with setting up the room etc.

MAB suggested at a future monthly committee meeting we look into setting up a Working Group to assist in the organising and setting up of venues for the quarterly meetings.

The next meeting is on 18th March 2022 at 14.00.

Name	Position	Date
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