Northumbria Region u3a

Zoom Committee Meeting

17th February 2023

From 14.00 – 16.00

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Ann Carr (AC), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Mike Wallace (MMW), Mary Dunning (MD), Ted Watt (TW), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Visitors: - Trevor Robinson (TR), Mike Cook (MC).

Apologies: - Peter Barnett and Sandi Rickerby.

Welcome: - Cecilia welcomed everyone to the meeting and as we had visitors, we each introduced ourselves and gave an outline on which u3a we belonged to and our role.

Minutes: - Agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising: -

Derek Reynolds one of the two visitors last month may join this committee in the future.

Dr Robert Pullen will not be joining the committee due to various commitments but will take a lead in the forthcoming Northumbria Regional Quiz. Details on this to be announced shortly.

A list of u3as using Beacon is ongoing.

Durham South and Dunelm are merging and forming a new charity. The expected completion date is January 2024. They are looking for name for the new u3a. MMW asked if they were allowed to merge funds. TAT says yes they can.

MED said it will be useful to learn what is involved in merging u3as as it may happen again in the future.

Peterlee which closed recently is still trying to sort out what funds they hold.

Glass Centre – A possible venue for a future event. The centre has structural faults which will be expensive to repair and it has been decided to close the centre within the next three years and move to a more central site possible the Vaux one.

Regional Equipment – The details we have to date are: -

Projector at M Browns flat in Jesmond.

Projector with ceiling fittings and cabling min M Browns (MAB) car as possibility from my cousin's group of 'friends' of a charitable organisation wanting donation if anyone wants it or a return.

Projector and ceiling fitting with Jan Bray, Peterlee. MAB to visit and collect equipment.

Three Year Plan: - This is now on the website.

The Wall – The information and link to the national site will be updated shortly on the region's website.

Regions Presence on Facebook – Mike Cook from Newcastle u3a joined the meeting to explain what information was needed and find out what we wanted to display.

It was decided we would begin with a Facebook Page where we can list forthcoming events. TR pointed out we needed a picture on the front. CC pointed out we had Bambrough Castle on the front of the Regions website and we could use that. It was then agreed we would rotate pictures of the whole of Northumbria Region.

It was decided to keep the site open to all as we want to attract new members to our u3as.

Mike Cook and Trevor Robinson will set up the site.

Post meeting note – MEB has provided MC and TR with each other's email addresses. CC has offered them the use of Wickham's or Regions Zoom licence.

Reports: -

Chair (CC) - Report circulated.

AC and MW both reported that they are not holding any regional equipment.

CC has been in touch with Pat Davenport of Boldon u3a who is having great difficulty recruiting committee members. MW, MED and MMW will try and arrange to go to their next monthly meeting to see if they can be of assistance.

Policies and Procedures – MEB had pointed out to CC that they still had not been updated. CC produced an email from the Policies and Procedures Working Group outlining what was needed and MEB offered to update same.

National Links Meeting – CC asked Regional members who attended for their thoughts. AC thought it informative. MEB thought the governance talk by Allan Warmsley was good but that the talk on banking did not offer any new insights and left us with the same questions. MED says she had applied but had not been sent the link.

Site Builder is being replaced by Site Works.

Risk Assessments – Must remember to do one for each venue Region use.

A new National pro forma Safeguarding Policy will be available soon.

There is a new model constitution on the national website.

Business Secretary (MEB): - No report.

Treasurer (MMW): - The deposit for using the Angel Inn for the AGM and the monies for storage of the Regions equipment with Whickham's will be paid shortly.

Post meeting note – Both items were paid 17th February.

Ryton has closed and it is understood they hold £2l65 in funds. MMW to contact E Turnbull treasurer to ascertain the current position.

Post meeting note – MMW will be collect the funds 18th February and bank as soon as possible.

It was agreed that once these funds are handed over they will be merged with the balance of Jesmond legacy and the fund will be renamed.

Subscriptions for 2023/4 – It was agreed as our funds are healthy that no increase will be applied.

Events (MW): - No report as the last meeting was cancelled.

Communications (PB): - No report as PB is on holiday.

Regional Trustee (SR): - As SR is on holiday CC gave her report.

There is an online national workshop on Insurance on 28th March.

Shortly there will be four different postcard designs that members can be used to attract new members.

As Regional Committee and Regional Support Volunteers are more or less doing the same roles, meetings will be merged. All Committee Members and Regional Support Volunteers will be invited to the next Regional Committee Meeting Zoom meeting on March 17th 2023.

The face to face Regional Support Team Meeting arranged for February 28th 2023 at the Angel View Hotel, Gateshead will still go ahead. Everybody in attendance at this meeting will be informed of the above decision.

It is suggested that the support team and committee meet after the quarterly meeting for an hour.

Feedback from the January quarterly meeting: - Feedback ranged from quite good to thinking the speaker was brilliant.

AGM: - It was agreed that the Chairs and Financial Reports be distributed with the AGM agenda.

The timeline for the AGM and the nomination/motion for debate form were accepted. The nomination form will be put on the website next week to make sure people have the necessary time to complete them. Committee members were reminded that they also need to fill in the form if they wish to continue to be a member of the Regional Committee as per the Constitution.

MMW has agreed to prepare a Google form asking members who will be attending if they require a meal etc.

The cost will be £10.00.

It was agreed that members will be able to attend via Zoom if they wish.

Training in the use of Beacon: - AC led this and it was suggested we use the national online training rather than organise our own. Details of these workshops will be the next newsletter.

PAT (Portable Appliance Testing): - Some u3as use a firm based at Silverlink. It was decided to defer this item to another meeting as it was not urgent, and we still don't know where all Region's equipment is.

The next committee meeting will be on 17th March 2023 at 2pm.

Name C Coulson **Position** Chair **Date** 17th March 2023

Name M E Barlow **Position** Secretary **Date** 17th March 2023