



Northumbria Region u3a

Zoom Committee Meeting

21st January 2022

From 14.00 – 16.30

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

Welcome: - Mo Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: - Agreed as accurate.

Matters Arising: - The Action Points from this meeting have been completed with two points raised. The January Quarterly Regional Meeting will now be held by Zoom only. Communication – emails sent from Kelvin Rushworth (KR), Publicity Advisor regarding events will not go to North Yorkshire u3as while other emails will go to all u3as in the region.

Reports

Chair: - Report circulated.

MW has asked for information on when a Gaming Licence is required and MAB has agreed to contact the national office.

A review of policies is due in February. MAB suggested that in the next mailing a request is put out asking if any member would like to join a working group which is envisaged will run for a short period only to review the above and work on the Three Year Plan.

MAB asked if SR had approached Catherine Stevenson (CS) regarding the name of the Chairs and Secretaries group she runs. SR replied no but she had spoken to her on other issues. MEB asked how long a chair of a Network remains in office. MAB said they have no constitution so there is no time limit for how long a chair serves. At this point MAB asked MEB to inform the group about her comments in emails received attaching items for Messenger. Copy of one email received “Below, I’ve written a couple of brief paragraphs for the next edition of ‘The Messenger’”. The titles for each group are what we use to

identify our groups. They cannot be muddled with other groups e.g., other chairs' networks as they have different names.

If they are changed again, I'll reconsider entering further info in the magazine." On checking her submissions and Messenger I can see nothing amiss.

She should not be calling the "SE Northumberland and the Coast Chairs and Business Secretaries Network" meeting "Northumbria Region Chairs and Business Secretaries Network" without at least working with us on this. She is not representing us, but giving us a bad name.

MAB informed the meeting she was unable to attend the Hilary Jones Network meeting and asked who was attending to which CC and MMW said they were.

Business Secretary (MEB): - No report.

Treasurer (MMW): - There have been no transactions although we have received 21p Interest.

We have no examiner for the year-end accounts at the moment but some names were put forward at the meeting and it is hoped to have someone in place before the April quarterly meeting.

Events (CC): - A report has been circulated and CC gave a shortened version to the meeting.

The meeting noted that KRs attachments to his emails are rather lengthy and he is aware of this but says he has to get the details out to members. It was suggested that he makes national office aware of the problem members have with the volume of information.

MW pointed out there was a problem regarding the Lindisfarne Gospels and the usage of photographs which they are hoping to quickly resolve.

Photographic Competition – CC says they hope to have one in May with the images then going on to the Editors Image Bank. The theme would be around Live, Laugh and Learn. At this stage the idea is each u3a would have a competition to find the best photograph which would then be forwarded to region. The committee raised concerns that permissions were addressed regarding members agreeing to be photographed and permission given regarding usage of same. The committee agreed to the competition as long as various safeguards were in place.

Walking Basket Ball – It was agreed further work was needed on this and the item is therefore returned to KR.

Communications (PB): - Work is ongoing regarding consolidating the Beacon System.

Facebook (MAB): - The intention is for the region to have a page at some point in the future.

Messenger (MEB): - The next issue is almost ready. Amendments have been agreed with one proof reader and am waiting to hear from the second.

PB to look into a possible change of email address for contact information on the back page.

Regional Trustee (SR): -

Royal College of Art – Wisdom. This is to be held on the 5th March in London with a possible further meeting later in the month perhaps in Newcastle.

Focus Group on Sex – Care Homes keep couples separate and even people who meet in these homes have difficulty meeting up privately.

Design Agency – Push Back Aging. The details are being analysed but items such as blister packs, child proof tops, food packaging are some of the main items the older generation have problems with. It is hoped to get a parliamentary debate on this and to speak to designers.

Working Groups

Hybrid Meetings (MMW): - The group have recently been to Gateshead.

It seems that most u3as have problems hearing what members are saying from their homes to a meeting.

Communications (PB): - No further information.

Editors Image Bank (MEB): - No further information.

Jesmond Working Group (MAB): - Information was contained in the report sent out by the meetings chair.

The original Working Group making recommendations about the best way to distribute the Legacy comprised Chair Robert Berry, Cestria; Maureen Stephenson, Newcastle; David Pattinson, Tynedale and Tracy Dixon Whickham; Peter Chrichard, Cramlington.

The second Jesmond u3a Legacy Working Group who discussed the submissions and made their recommendations to this committee comprised Chair Robert Berry, Cestria; Fran Rabone, Stokesley; Pam Turner, Morpeth; Jan Leach, Seaham and District.

Five u3as applied for monies and two were accepted. It was agreed £400 should be given to Blyth and £350 to Washing u3as. it was agreed to accept the Working Group's recommendation.

The committee had various thoughts on the final decision by the Working Group including had they been given the right parameters to work to and perhaps could the monies have been shared out equally among the five applicants. The committee did agree to accept the recommendations of the Working Group.

The committee would like to thank all members for the time and effort they put into this project.

The committee decided to look into using the Regional Special Fund to assist u3as with equipment with the possibility of £150 upper limit. They felt that they needed to look more carefully into the instructions for applying and the information given to the Working Group as to what was required by from.

January Quarterly Zoom Meeting (MAB): -

PB and CC will let members into the meeting.

CC will assist members having problems joining and check for questions in chat.

Committee Members are requested to send information to MAB as soon as possible for the chairs report.

Any Other Business: - None.

The next committee meeting will be on 18th February at 2pm.

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