



Northumbria Region u3a

Zoom Committee Meeting

14th July 2023

From 14.00 – 16.00

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

Apologies: - Trevor Robinson (TR). Peter Barnett (PB), Sandi Rickerby (SR).

Observer: - Frank Ledwith (FL)

Welcome: - CC welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everyone to say a little about themselves to FL who is an observer from the Scottish Region.

Minutes: - MW proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 16th June 2023 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by TW. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters Arising: -

MMW attended the Ashington monthly meeting where they have approximately 50 members of which approximately 20 attended. They are having issues with getting members to join the committee and taking over the chair.

MMW has offered to go with SR if he is available to a meeting in Cestria in September. MMW is also going to contact Robert Berry, Cestria Chair as they know each other.

FL said that in Scotland when u3a numbers are floundering they have made the u3a a subgroup of another u3a.

Banners – Money is available to buy new ones from a fund that SR holds. CC has been in touch with Kelvin Rushworth regarding the banners and were thought to be in Wooler u3a cupboard but on checking they were not so he is checking if they are in Cockermouth cupboard. CC and her husband are going to see KR on 1st August and will try and resolve the issue. AC has been looking at the cost of a new banner and says that a new 2 metre one plus case costs £93.60 which includes VAT.

CC pointed out she has updated the list of Does and Don't for the Events Team when organising the quarterly meetings and asked if the committee would like a copy. This was agreed and CC will send copies out in due course. **Post meeting this has been done.**

Beacon – Mo Brown, MMW, AC and PB have access. PB to be contacted when he returns from holiday to confirm who has full/partial access and what alterations if any need to be made.

PAT testing – CC is arranging for the regions items to be tested in November at St Mary’s Centre. MMW proposed this be accepted and seconded by TW and was passed by the committee.

Facebook: - Mike Cook was unable to attend the meeting to give an update.

Reports: -

Chair (CC) – Report circulated.

Business Secretary (MEB) – No report.

Treasurer (MMW) – The distribution of the monies from disbanded u3as has been done and £49.43 will be going into the bank accounts of the u3as who provided their details. Emails will be sent to u3as informing them of the amount they will receive and informing the four who did not respond to the email what they have missed out on.

Associated Members – National Office does not need to know when a member joins more than one u3a. It was noted that some u3as charge these people the same registration fee as normal members, others charge a lower one or none at all.

Events (CC) – It has ~~been~~ proposed that we hold a Festival of Music possibly next year. To which the committee agreed. It is suggested that the event begins in the afternoon with a busking session and following on after a break with a couple of bands. An indoor venue would need to be found and we would need to discover what musical talent is available in the region.

The Ad Gefrin event has been advertised on the website and in Messenger.

Communication (PB) – PB is on holiday and therefore there is no update.

Messenger (MEB) – The last date for articles for the next edition is 29th September and it is proposed to have it available to everyone early October.

July Quarterly Meeting at Stannington – CC has emailed the three closest u3as to ask if anyone would be available to assist on the day and to date has not received a reply.

At present there are 33 people attending with 28 wanting lunch.

It has been arranged that the venue and food bills will be paid after the event by bank transfer.

Tables and chairs will be put out for us.

Communications with u3as – AC said that the u3as are informing Region regarding changes to committee members, but it comes in dribs and drabs and not directly after the Committee has changed as the new Committee members need time to ‘find out what is happening’. AC was quite happy with the system.

CC does not receive emails from National Office as the region is registered as a Network and is relying on members of the committee passing information on to her. An email was sent by CC to Liz Thackary, Chair of the Third Age Trust asking why she could not be added to the

Chair's and Secretaries email database. The reply from Liz Thackary said that she had made enquiries and it was a technical and GDPR issue – so no further forward.

Roles and Responsibilities (CC): - Copies of the booklet have been circulated to the committee who were asked to read and digest the information contained in the document (especially their particular role i.e. treasurer) ready to discuss at the next meeting.

Updates: -

Speakers List – PB, MW, AC and CC to arrange a meeting on the way forward.

Three Year Plan – Recommendations from the RST re items 2 and 3 of the 3 year plan to be discussed at Stannington on Thursday 20th July.

Quarterly Meetings 2023/4 – CC and MEB to meet to discuss dates for future meetings.

Policies – CC and MEB have updated all but one policy in line with those on the national site and these have been forwarded to PB to include on the regions website. The Safeguarding policy will be completed shortly.

Any Other Business

SR is hoping to arrange a get together in October when she retires as the Regional Trustee to thank the Trust Volunteer and the Regional Committee.

The committee agreed that the names and photographs of the Trust Volunteers should be on the region's website.

In the minutes it is noted that 'reports have been circulated' but are not published. The committee recommended that these reports should be published along with the minutes to give a more accurate picture.

Date of the next meeting is 15th September 2023.

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