



Northumbria Region u3a

Zoom Committee Meeting

16th June 2023

From 14.00 – 16.30

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Mike Wallace (MMW) Ted Watt (TW), Peter Barnett (PB), Ann Carr (AC).

Apologies: - Trevor Robinson. Sandi Rickerby, Mary Barlow.

Welcome: - Cecilia as chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes: - MW proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2023 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by Ted Watt. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters arising: - AC asked about changing the Financial Year End. CC said it was decided to leave as it is for various reasons including being able to collect subscriptions in the one financial year without having to do accruals.

SR is assisting Cestria and has a meeting in September with them. MMW has arranged a date to go to Ashington. CC informed the meeting Boldon is currently managing quite well.

Regional Trustee – SR has taken a lady from Blyth u3a to a meeting in London. Questions were asked about her name and knowledge of the movement. Unfortunately, SR has not been able to furnish the committee with this information.

Banners – Money is available from the National Office. CC has contacted Kelvin Rushworth for information where he bought some from last year. AC is going to look at the Brand Centre for info about banners. It was suggested that she contact Mo Brown who may be able to help.

AGM – AC said surely it was easy to count votes if people put up their hands. It was noted that each u3a only have one vote and sometimes more than one person comes from a u3a attends therefore it was decided it was easier to use a paper vote which will have the name of the u3a on it.

Off the Wall – CC has sent Mike Cook information regarding this event to put on our Facebook page. Various other items have been sent to him including items from Durham and Whickham.

Charity Commission – They are updating their system and Chairs have been asked to set up a new personalised Charity Commission account. CC has registered the regions page. This system is not currently live. Other members of the Region will be able to gain access in due course.

Gosforth Golf Club – MMW has been asked to send information to SR regarding this event as monies will be coming from her budget (this is for a ‘thank you’ to all RST members and ‘leads’ of Networks hopefully happening in September 2023)

Facebook: - Mike Cook was invited to this meeting but CC has not had a reply. As the Facebook page is live it is not necessary for him to attend all our meetings.

Found out today, as he was at the synagogue, that he was away on holiday last week.

Reports: -

Chair (CC) – Report circulated.

AC pointed out that she had attended a Network meeting and noted that Coquetdale had some new committee members.

CC requires names and numbers for the Trust Volunteers Induction Course on 28th June.
Post meeting --- info and Zoom link has been sent out to members whoa attending this course.

CC attended Derwent Valley and informed them about the regions Facebook page, web site and various Networks.

Business Secretary (MEB) – No report

Finance (MMW) – The Zoom licence has been renewed.

South Durham have been paid the £100 towards the quiz they are holding.

Out of 48 u3as only 37 have responded with bank details regarding the distribution of the Legacy Funds. It was agreed that we would contact those who had not responded giving them another week to reply. It was agreed that if they did not respond their share of the monies would be divided out equally among those we had.

A quarterly meeting was held in 2022 at Seaham and because of the dissatisfaction with the food the bill was not paid but a provision had been made in the accounts. As it is now a year since the event MMW asked do we need to continue to show this. It was agreed that the money should be written back into the accounts.

Events (CC) – Report circulated.

An advert has been prepared for the web page and Messenger regarding a visit to Ad Gefrin, Wooler on 6th September 2023. Post Meeting Note – Advert sent to PB for inclusion on website and to be sent out via Beacon.

u3a Week in September. It is still up to individual u3as if they wish to organise something.

The Events Team have agreed to assist with arranging the quarterly meetings such as seeking venues, doing a Risk Assessment and eventually prepare a rolling programme.

Post meeting CC sent to Events team members written info re organisation of RQM and risk assessment documentation.

Communications (PB) – It was noted that PB was only able to attend the second half of the meeting. CC read out an email sent by PB to all members regarding two items a) Problems encountered with the Speakers List b) Problems envisaged migrating information between Site Builder and Site Word.

AC and MW offered assistance with item a).

Beacon - CC confirmed that the National Office has confirmed there are problems with the Beacon system in so much as when you send an email to all treasurers etc., that you cannot see exactly to whom they have been sent and it would be costly to update the system.

Post Meeting Note - PB confirmed that Mo Brown, Mike Wallace, Ann Carr and himself had full access to Beacon.

Messenger (MEB) – Closing date for the next issue is 25th June

Inventory of Items - CC and MMW have done an inventory of items belonging to the Region and noted that two banners are broken. As the items are stored with Whickham u3as it was agreed that PAT testing of necessary items will be undertaken with theirs. **Post Meeting Note – An email has been sent to Whickham and District u3a and Derwent Valley as their equipment is stored in more or less the same space. Awaiting a reply.**

Roles and Responsibilities – PB has found an updated version to the one sent out dated 2021 which has been circulated. MW reminded members that we are unpaid volunteers and such information could frighten people from taking up these positions. CC said that they we all need guidance and advice. It was decided that the updated version be discussed at the next Regional Committee Meeting on 14th July .

Committee Meeting Date Change - Due to the date of the next Quarterly Meeting it was agreed to bring the next meeting of this committee forward to the 14th July.

July Quarterly Meeting at Stannington – It was agreed that the cost would be £10.00 per head. £2 to attend the meeting and £8 for the meal.

10.00 – 11.45 Regional Support Team Meeting. Any other member wishing to attend may do so but may not take part in discussions.

11.45 – 12.15 Registration

12.15 – 13.15 lunch.

13.15 – 14.15 General Meeting and business of the day.

14.30 – 15.30 Talk and demonstration by a Chocolatier. **Post Meeting Note - Now superseded as chocolatier had double booked – Presentation called ‘It’s not Rocket Science’ – an amusing look at Stephenson’s Rocket by Arthur Coulson.**

MMW do we need a google form. CC yes. MMW to update form and send out.

W.I. who will be doing the catering need numbers a week before the event.

Members will be asked if they wish to join via Zoom but this will only take place if there are sufficient numbers who wish to attend this way.

Details to be given to PB for the website. **Post Meeting Note – This has been done.**

Possible Venue for October is Hylton Castle and MW will visit and collect the necessary information.

Three Year Plan – TW has put in a lot of time on this and has divided the Region into roughly four equal sub regions. The aim being to get u3as to work and share a common programme.

AC not sure this is a good idea as we already have a Regional Committee and would it not be wiser to split the region into two.

Who would oversee this. Would travel be an issue. It would possibly entail more work initially and more administration.

Teesdale u3a have said they do not want anything to do with the idea and prefer to remain on their own.

It seems there is a lot of apathy about and members want things done for them.

This plan will be discussed at the RST meeting on 20th July, before the RQM

Policies – CC and MEB have a Zoom meeting arranged for 28th June to hopefully finalize these.

Frank Ledwith - He is a member of the Scottish Regional Committee and would like to attend one of our meetings to gain some insights in how we organise and run our Region. Scotland is an entire region.

Any Other Business –

Networks – Although they were asked to send reports/notes of their meetings to MEB they have sent them to CC. They will be reminded to send them to MEB in the future. These will be distributed to all committee members in due course. CC read out some of the information she has received and we were all pleasantly surprised by the number and variation of items discussed.

The next meeting is on the 14th July 2023 at 14.00.

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