



## Northumbria Region u3a

### Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

08<sup>th</sup> March 2024

From 14.00 – 16.30

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

**Visitors:** - Janice Bowden Berwick u3a, Theresa Mulkerrin Durham u3a and Paul Bradbury Saltburn u3a.

**Apologies:** - Peter Barnett.

**Welcome:** - Cecilia welcomed everyone to the meeting. CC had come straight from a meeting of people who are interested in taking on the position of Regional Treasurer when MMW steps down. Three of the four people who took part in the meeting stayed to be introduced to Committee Members. All those present introduced themselves and gave a short resumé of their position within the u3a. The visitors then left the meeting.

**Previous Minutes:** - MW proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by TW. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

**Matters Arising:** - There is a typing error in Any Other Business, the initials should be JC nor JB. All other items pertaining to these minutes will be brought up at various points during the meeting.

**Reports:** -

**Chair (CC):** - Report circulated.

It has been noted that the Fit for the Future meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> March at Bowburn Community Centre, Bowburn has caught the interest of u3as that do not normally come to regional functions, and we hope this is a good sign for the future.

Carole Soulsby of Tynedale u3a is interested in setting up a History Network. At the moment this will be only for u3as in her local area. We hope this can be expanded to the whole region in the future.

Our region needs a Public Relations Advisor and/or Social Media Advisor to promote our organisation. A member of Tynedale u3a and a member of Washinton u3a was approached to take on these roles, but both have declined.

CC and JC have noted as they visit u3as in the Region that not all relevant information is being passed on to members i.e. forthcoming events, Messenger, Regional and national websites.

AC asked how long the PowerPoint that CC has prepared on the movement was and if it would be available to everyone. CC replied that it is approximately 20 minutes long but it needs revising before it can be distributed.

**Business Secretary (MEB):** - No report.

**Treasurer (MMW):** - The accounts have been approved by the examiner and one or two recommendations have been made including setting up a Funding Policy.

MEB noted that the accounts need to be forwarded to the Charity Commission.

29 teams have shown an interest in coming to the North of the Regions Quiz. CC asked for a copy of the list so teams can be ticked off as they arrive at the venue.

Subscriptions – The committee has agreed that as the region has sufficient funds for its current needs therefore u3as will not be charged during April 2024/March 2025.

**Events:** - Report circulated.

53 members are going to the Hartlepool Marina event later this month and they will be divided into three groups.

MWs u3a has been to Donnison Heritage Centre, Holy Trinity Church, and the Maritime Heritage Centre in Sunderland. The visit to the Maritime Centre was the least enjoyed due to the guide they had. (Post meeting - A Regional Event has been organised to the Maritime Heritage Centre and the Donnison Heritage Centre with afternoon tea on September 18<sup>th</sup> 2024).

**Communications (PB):** - No report.

**Facebook (MC):** - No report.

**Beacon (AC):** - No report.

**Messenger (MEB):** - The question was asked is Messenger still relevant?

MEB noted that when she took over as editor it was approximately 40 pages long and mainly articles from various u3as with a few items advertising future events but currently it is only 20 pages and there are more events than articles in the publication.

CC to prepare a flyer to go to all Chairs and Secretaries asking them if they can provide one article for the magazine. This flyer will also be published in the next issue. (Post Meeting - Flyer composed sent to MEB for observations).

**Feedback on the January Quarterly Meeting:** -

No meeting was held in February as the committee went out for a meal and this is the first opportunity we have had to discuss the issue.

Members were disappointed at how many people were leaving these meetings either just before or just after lunch and not staying for the full day.

It was decided that the AGM in April would be the full day as it is already organised, but the next two/three quarterly meetings will be for the half day.

## **Preparation for AGM**

Notices – AC will put notices on Beacon – CC will confer with Mo Brown re notices that have to go out NOW via website.

Agreed to be hybrid – Post meeting CC sent Mo Brown details of agenda and link to google form, (Provided by MMW) and nomination form to be added to website. Mo Brown asked to liaise with IT Network to configure hybrid meeting.

CC to send out nomination forms to 3 members who have shown an interest in the Regional Treasurer's position. CC will ask them to write a short paragraph about their experiences in finance. (Post Meeting – now only 2 members to be considered for the Regional Treasurer's position).

Two of the above members – Paul Bradbury Saltburn u3a and Teresa Mulkerrin have stated if they aren't appointed as Treasurer then they will seek election for the Regional Committee as Committee members.

It was agreed that Brian Aitken be invited to speak after the AGM. Post meeting CC sent email to Kelvin Rushworth on 8.03.2024 to contact Brian Aitken and inform him of the Committee decision as CC doesn't have Brian's contact details. Email received from Kelvin Rushworth on 9.03.2024 saying he will contact Brian.

CC contacted North Biddick Social Club – received information re buffet menus. £7.95 menu was chosen. CC to inform venue of decision. Cost of AGM is £2 admission and £6 for lunch = £8. Post meeting CC has informed North Biddick Social Club of Committee's decision.

JC gave her apologies for the AGM.

**July Quarterly Meeting.** – Some confusion as to venue. Is it Bethany City Church, Sunderland or Bede Tower Sunderland or are these 2 venues the same place? Whichever it was agreed to book this venue for half a day in the morning and lunch. No decision as to October meeting was made.

**Visit by Liz Thackary** – MW hasn't received a copy of Liz's itinerary to be resent once a couple of alterations of timings made. JC to contact Whitley Bay to confirm their details. AC, MW and MMW put their names down to attend afternoon tea with Liz Thackary at Lumley Castle on Thursday 11th April 2024.

**Progress on short story competition.** CC asked if Northumbria Region would pay for a book voucher of £30 for the winner- it was agreed. Also, can the winner and 2 runners up attend the October RQM to receive their prizes. This was agreed.

**Photography competition** - PB not available so no update.

**Speakers List** - PB not available.

**Three Year Plan and policies** - On going.

**Region's leaflet.** TW asked several questions.

1. Format of RQM – this was previously discussed, he now has details

2. 30th anniversary – none of the Committee realised it was the 30th anniversary. To be placed on agenda for April meeting. Post meeting – CC spoke to Mo Brown to ask her about the arrangements for the 25th anniversary, which was aborted due to COVID. It was afternoon tea in a venue in Newcastle, 2 members from each u3a would be invited and if there was any space left then names were put on a waiting list. A contribution from region was to be paid to subsidise the cost of the afternoon tea.

3. Regional Training Days – as the Region only now has 2 Trust Volunteers, Pam Turner and Mo Brown (Jane Mathieson has decided to no longer present workshops) to put on regional face to face training days it's difficult. TW offered to help – suggestions raised organise National online training days via Zoom. TW was going to speak with Mo Brown and Christa Lloyd to see if they could suggest anything. It was noted that a Social Media workshop would be welcome. ie Facebook etc A member of Tynedale u3a had already been contacted about this but had not replied. CC to contact her again. **(Post Meeting please see information above re contact).**

4. Possible photo competition for photos for the leaflet. TW to liaise with PB.

**Any Other Business:** - It was noted the National have 5 places for members to run in the Great North Run. Each member will have to raise £350 to enter. JC has had a preliminary chat with Comms at National office – possibly a tent at the end of the run in the charity tent. Discussions ongoing.

Date of next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Date</b>
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