



## Northumbria Region u3a

### Zoom Committee Meeting

20<sup>th</sup> May 2022

From 14.00 – 16.15

**Present:** - Cecilia Coulson (CC) Chair, Mike Wallace (MMW), Peter Barnett (PB), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Ann Carr (AC), Mary Barlow (MEB).

**Apologies:** - Sandi Rickerby (SR)

**Welcome:** - Cecilia Coulson welcomed everyone to her first meeting as Chair.

**Minutes:** - Agreed as accurate.

**Matters Arising:** - CC asked who the gentleman was working on the Three Year Plan who was ill. His name is Andrew Freckingham u3a unknown at this point.

CC asked if PB has someone to assist with the website. PB said at present he had no help although believed Mo Brown had someone in mind but had not been in touch with PB being on holiday.

CC wondered if MMW had the float for £60 that Robert Berry held for use at quarterly meetings. MMW said he had and it was unlikely to be used in the future with people paying in advance to attend the quarterly meetings.

**Reports:** -

**Chair (CC)** CC began by saying her style of management was to see that all members received all emails and were involved in decision making.

We need to make sure that every member is aware that this committee is not another tier of management but a Network offering assistance and advice.

CC informed the committee that she had emailed the National Office asking them to update their system with her name and position plus MEBs but had had a reply saying that they were unable to locate Northumbria Region. Emails went back and forth with CC eventually telling them where to find us on the National Website Link.

There is concern over u3as being able to attract members onto committees and that numbers attending meetings were still down on pre pandemic times in most areas. CC will put together an advert for Messenger and the website asking for members to come onto the Regional Committee.

Lyn Boson and Alan Swindale were leading on Beacon. Lyn Boson had prepared a video.

It would be advantageous if Region had a list of Working Groups and who was in them so that when an enquiry came in from a member they can be pointed in the right direction.

CC mentioned the Report Form that had been distributed and it was agreed that it was not a suitable tool therefore members are free to write their own reports.

Zoom Licence – The original licence is in Mo Browns name and it is difficult to change the information. Mo has agreed to renew the licence and keep the diary of people wishing to use it.

**Business Secretary (MEB):** - No report as details will be discussed in the evaluation of the AGM.

**Treasurer (MW):** - MW shared the screen showing everyone the current position with the accounts.

We had a surplus of £18 from the AGM.

Bank Mandate – This needs to be changed to reflect the current members on the committee. Cecilia Coulson, Malcolm Wilkinson and Mary Barlow agreed to become signatories. All members have a Barclays account therefore it should make facilitating the change much easier. It was agreed that Mo would continue to be authorised to authorise online bank payments until the bank mandate is sorted.

Mo Brown has renewed the Zoom licence and has asked to be re-imbursed the £143.88 which was agreed by the committee.

CC needs reimbursing for expenses incurred at the AGM.

**Events (MW):** - The Working Group has lost two members and Kelvin Rushworth is looking into changing the format of the group to make it viable.

Bensham Grove Day (Creative Taster) has been cancelled due to the costs involved.

Lindisfarne Gospels – This is currently being organised for 3rd October 2022. It is hoped that sufficient interest will be shown by our members.

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

**Messenger (MEB):** - No report. MEB asked if anyone had ideas for improving the magazine or if they would like any changes. None were forthcoming.

**Regional Trustee (SR):** - No report.

**Working Groups:** - A report that had featured in Messenger had been distributed.

Mo Brown is willing to oversee these groups and feed information back to region. Various ways of how this could be done were looked at but it was decided to invite Mo Brown to the first half of the Regional Committee Meetings only to update members present on the current position.

**Evaluation of the AGM:** - MMW said the Google forms for applying to attend the meeting worked well. They provided the name of the person, u3a, dietary requirements and the cost of attending was prepaid. This made things much easier when people arrived.

The pre-event organisation was seen as good as was the venue.

It was noted that when we use the venue again and numbers increase then another room could be used for the food.

Zoom – No feedback has been received yet by anyone attending the meeting this way. It was noted that the speaker did not stand still and the microphone was behind him. It was agreed that it was worth visiting the venue before the meeting to decide where things were to be sited.

Research & Shared Learning National Conference 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2022 – A letter has been distributed on the above and will be put on the website.

**Regional Creative Writing Group:** - The group are looking into publishing their book using Amazon and therefore not need money up front. MW to attend the Regional Creative Writing Group meeting on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May to discuss using the Regional Bank Account for the Amazon start up.

**Network Link Meeting:** - This is a Zoom meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. MMW and MEB among others have been allocated places. CC to send the information on this to MW.

**Venues for Quarterly Meetings:** - MW was asked to look into the feasibility of using Seaham Town Hall for the next meeting and report back.

CC will look into using a building she has heard about in Bowburn Village Hall.

**AOB:** -

AC pointed out but also noting that no disrespect was intended to CC that Mo Brown informed the committee that CC was taking on the position of Vice Chair then later as Chair. No discussion had taken place and procedures had not been followed. CC took this onboard and again noted that she intended to share and involve the committee in decision making and inform all Committee Members of any correspondence that comes to Committee.

A letter from Sarah Cox had been distributed but PB found out the information we had received did not tell the full story and the organisation was a company wishing to assist new companies setting up a business. It was therefore decided that the information would not be put on the website or distributed to members.

AC asked who should actually have received the email regarding the Insurance Workshop 15<sup>th</sup> June. It was agreed that there was no problem with it going to the Chairs and Secretaries of each u3a.

Committee Meal – It was agreed that instead of holding our meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> August that we go for a meal at Portofino Restaurant, 12A Mosley St, Newcastle at 12.30pm.

Storage of Regional Equipment. It was agreed to use the same place as Whickham u3a who pay £75 per annum. Regional agreed to pay £30. CC will take this information back to Whickham.

Members had received an email from Mo Brown regarding Banners and Working Groups but were unsure about some of the detail. CC to contact her for clarification.

Date of the next meeting 17<sup>th</sup> June 2022.

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