



Northumbria Region u3a

Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

17th May 2024

From 14.00 – 16.00

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Jean Cubbin (JC), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Theresa Mulkerrin (TM), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Apologies: - Peter Barnett, Ann Carr, Ted Watt.

Welcome: - CC welcomed everyone to the meeting with a special welcome for Theresa Mulkerrin the new treasurer.

Minutes of the last Meeting: - MW proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2024 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by MEB. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters arising: -

Public Relations Advisor – No suitable candidate has been found to date.

Bedale Visit – CC visited Bedale u3a and as usual asked how many members and committee members they have. They have 215 members and 11 committee members but no chair. They have decided the only way they can continue is by rotating the chair among the committee members. CC asked if anyone would like to join the regional committee but received no response.

Region's computer – TM noted she was happy to use her own computer for the accounts etc., and the committee agreed that Mike Wallace could keep the regions computer which is quite old and is noted as worth £6 on the Asset Register. **Post meeting note – An email has been sent to Mike Wallace to this effect. An email has since been received saying he is grateful.**

Events: – Report circulated.

CC is arranging to meet Sue Willoughby regarding setting up a newsletter and IT workshop. **Post meeting - Zoom arranged for 22nd May 2024. Mo Brown invited and is attending.**

AGM Feedback: – The caterers have not been paid as no invoice has been received to date. **Post meeting...CC suggested to MMW, TM and MB that an email invoice be accepted as it has the name of the caterer, her bank details, email address and breakdown of costs for the total owed by Northumbria Region u3a Committee. TM and MB agreed with this, and the account has now been paid.**

Northumbria u3a Committee WhatsApp Group. The committee extended their thanks to MEB for setting this up. – MEB - This is much appreciated.

Reports

Chair (CC) – Report circulated.

Wooler u3a chair is emailing all chairs and secretaries with his thoughts on Fit for the Future. CC who has received a copy from Whickham's chair and will forward a copy to committee members. **Post Meeting Note – This has been done.**

Business Secretary (MEB): - Tynedale u3a have asked for a copy of the minutes for the AGM. At present they have not been completed due to the secretary's holidays and a query regarding attendance. It is noted that Tynedale did not send a representative to the AGM.

Treasurer (TM): - Mike Wallace and TM are seeking to get a mandate from the bank regarding the changeover of treasurers.

TM asked to confirm who are the signatories.

PB will be asked to make the necessary changes on the region's website. Email sent to PB and TM copied in on 17th May 2024.

We have two treasurer's networks in the region one in the north run by Catherine Stevenson and one in the south run by Jane Mathieson neither of which are treasurers. JC is to query this is acceptable with the national office.

MW asked TM to check if he has paid to join the archaeology event at Durham. CC said that she is waiting for an updated list for those attending and will contact him. **Post meeting. Email sent to MW on 20th May 2024. It is confirmed he is attending and paid.**

Events (CC): – Report circulated.

CC noted that the archaeology event is full and that there are 19 members who are unable to join the event due to restricted numbers and she is making enquiries to see if another event can be arranged.

Great North Run – We are aiming to have a presence at the start, finish and along the way to raise our profile. CC is preparing some flyers. Sponsors are required.

If there are any big events that you think we may be able to get a stall to help raise our profile, please let a member of the Events Team know.

Website (PB): - No report received due to holidays.

Facebook: - Mike Cook emailed in a report which has been circulated to members. The number of likes and followers is in a gradual upward trend.

Messenger (MEB): - JC was thanked for providing photographs of Liz Thackeray's visit and she was asked to provide a short article to go with same for the magazine.

CC is preparing an article of the visit to the Little Theatre in Gateshead. **Post meeting - done**

Beacon (PB): - In the absence of PB Mo Brown circulated via Beacon to all Chairs Business Secretaries and significant others information from JC re the Board Meeting of 15th May at National, mainly giving an update about Fit for the Future.

Regional Trustee (JC): - Report circulated to committee and all chairs and secretaries.

Feedback on AGM: -

CC thought the buffet was lovely and better than at some venues.

MW has looked at the QT site the speaker mentioned.

TM noted that the u3a is going to have to look differently at advertising after listening to the speakers' comments.

Next Quarterly Meeting: - The date is 10th July at Durham Bowling Club, Pity Me.

TM has been asked to prepare the Google form when details are finalised.

MEB noted that no times had been confirmed. Details will become clearer at the June monthly meeting.

Venue for the October Quarterly Meeting: - Sandi Rickerby is looking at venues around the Morpeth area and two ladies from Ashington are doing the same and have already suggested looking into using Woodhorn Colliery Museum.

30th Anniversary: - CC and TW are going to the Little Haven to see if it is a suitable venue.

Regional Email Address (PB): - Currently on hold.

Short Story Competition (CC): - 13 entries have been received to date.

Photographic Competition (PB): – Currently no further information.

Speakers List (PB): - No further information at present.

Three Year Plan (CC)

It is proposed that the June meeting will be kept as short as possible to allow time to be spent looking into how we are complying with the plan.

Leaflet (TW): - Deferred for the moment.

Any Other Business: -

TM asked about the Funding Policy. This was raised by David Pattison two years ago when examining the regions accounts. The consensus seems to be this was about the good housekeeping of the accounts.

A possible solution regarding u3as getting committee members and group leaders would be to set up a new u3a which would hopefully attract new and current members.

Useful note for obtaining Broadband using your mobile phone – Go into settings, connections, mobile hotspot and tethering and open this application and turn on. You

should then be able to use your computer. I think this differs as iPhone users go into settings, then personal hotspot and turn on. This will enable Wi-Fi from your phone to be used for a laptop/iPad/tablet.

Date of next meeting 21st June 2024 at 2pm.

Name	C Coulson	Position	Chair	Date	21 st June 2024
Name	M E Barlow	Position	Secretary	Date	21 st June 2024