



Northumbria Region u3a

Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

15th November 2024

From 14.00 – 15.50

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Theresa Mulkerrin (TM), Jean Cubbin (JC), Ann Carr (AC), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Peter Barnett (PB), Ted Watt (TW), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Visitors: - Sandi Rickerby (SR), Dawn Tweddle (DW), Moira Stokoe (MS).

Welcome: - CC welcomed everyone to the meeting and then asked everyone present to say their name, u3a and relevant position for the benefit of our visitor.

Minutes: - AC proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 18th October 2024 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by TM. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters arising: -

CC asked what GDPR meant in the Business Secretaries item, and it is General Data Protection Regulation.

Reports: -

Chair (CC): - Report circulated.

AC asked regarding the 30th Anniversary at the Little Haven if we had heard from Iain Cassidy as we had heard from our guest Stuart Birkett the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland. JC answered saying she had heard from Ian Cassidy. He had replied to her as she was the one who invited him.

Little Haven – Liam Duncan has offered the Regional u3a a room free for our learning programme.

South Durham Quiz – See item under treasurer.

Secretary (MEB): - No report.

Treasurer (TM): - Report circulated.

There is a difference in the way both the north and south regional quizzes are run and it is causing concerns a) the south regional quiz does not provide a statement of accounts on the event to the committee b) the south regional quiz is not advertised within the region whereas the north one is. It seems the south quiz was originally intended for those u3as in the immediate vicinity of the u3a organizing the event not the whole of the south of the

region. CC has agreed to organize a Zoom meeting with Ruth Beckett, Sue Clark, Bob Pullen and TM to find common ground for the future running of these events.

Post meeting – email sent awaiting replies.

Events (CC): - Report circulated.

Various flyers for future events have/are being prepared for distribution.

Hexham Tapestries – Wendy Dale organised this event at which 47 people attended. JC said it was superb, and she had had positive feedback. MW said he had confirmed his name was on the list of attendees and that he would be going to assist. On arrival his name was not on the list nor was a meal ordered for him but someone did not attend, and he took their place. If it was known his help was not required, he may not have agreed to go as it is a long way from where he lives.

Website (PB): - No report.

Beacon (PB): - No report.

Messenger (MEB): - MEB reminded members the next edition was not due until January. She said she was aware of the Christmas holidays, but would members remember to send in their articles.

Trustee (JC): - Report circulated.

JC indicated that work was rapidly gathering pace on implementing FFTF. There were various initiatives in the pipeline but at present she was unable to provide any information on them. She indicated that there would be further consultations and therefore possible changes to the structure of the Region.

JC said she will be letting each member of the committee have sight of the application pack for posts advertised for the new council. The applications open 18th November and close 20th December 2024.

JC is going to hold two zoom meetings one for chairs and the other for business secretaries of u3as to bring them up to speed and hopefully bring onboard u3as who sit quietly in the background.

30th Anniversary Feedback: - There were only positives from this event and no negatives. The organising team were thanked for their hard work in organising the event.

January 22nd 2025 Quarterly Meeting: - This will be held in the Community Hub, Green Mall, Gateshead Metro Centre. No lunch is being provided. The committee need to provide the tea, coffee, milk and biscuits.

Reports will be given by the chair and treasurer.

PB will give a ten/fifteen minute talk on the new website – Site Works.

TM to prepare the Google form.

The committee agreed there would be no charge for this meeting.

Committee Lunch: - It was agreed that the committee would go for an Italian lunch after the meeting.

April 2025 AGM: - This will be held on 28th April at Bowburn Community Centre.

AC to make enquiries from the firm we used previously regarding providing a lunch.

It is hoped to have a chocolatier there.

Regional Subscriptions and Numbers.

TM was asked to provide details of what was on the form we last used which was pre Covid for the December meeting. The committee will then decide if we wish to charge u3as for the 2025/6 year and if so at what rate.

DT asked what the subscriptions were used for – mainly to help pay for events, workshops where needed.

3 Year Plan – In abeyance.

Leaflets – Mo Brown is sending a copy to PB to put on the website.

Any Other Business

There will be zoom committee meetings on 13th December 2024 and 17th January 2025. The latter one will include organising the quarterly meeting and firm up details for the AGM as statutory notices etc., need to be prepared.

JC confirmed with CC and PB the list of Networks the region has.

The next meeting will be on 13th December 2024 at 14.00.

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