



Northumbria Region u3a

Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

18th October 2024

From 14.00 – 16.10

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

Apologies: - Jean Cubbin

Welcome: - CC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting: - AC proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2024 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by TM. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters arising: - None.

Reports: -

Chair (CC) – Report given at the Quarterly Zoom Meeting on 8th October 2024. CC put the report on the screen for committee members who were not at this meeting to read.

Business Secretary (MEB) – I attended on Monday 14th October 2024 the first national Treasurers' Forum Zoom meeting chaired by Sue Russell. There were over forty members present. The talk by Martin Bromberg on Spreadsheets I thought was more appropriate for a company than a u3a although he used the system for his area. One treasurer commented his talk went over her head.

One thing that came out of the meeting was that the Charity Commission overrides the GDPR.

Sue mentioned that the u3a is finding that social and exercise groups are the most popular – line dancing and pickleball were among the favourites.

On Tuesday I attended the Regional Treasurers meeting chaired by Catherine Stevenson where seven attended, we introduced ourselves and u3as and gave an account of what was happening there. I mentioned being at the National Treasurers Forum the previous day and only a few had heard of it therefore details was forward to them.

Treasurer (TM) – Brief details were given of the current position including the projected costs for the 30th Anniversary.

Whickham u3a have storage facilities which Region share, and our portion of the rent is due. TM to follow up on this. **Post meeting - Email sent to Whickham's Treasurer, Ian Crawford to say that this item was in hand.**

Events (CC) – Their next meeting is this coming Monday. 21st October 2024.

They are making enquiries about visiting a mosque and Boldon Auction Rooms.

We are looking to hold a Zoom workshop on AI and providing that proves popular to have a person to person one.

The music event will be on 5th June 2025 at North Biddick from 2pm – 6pm.

Keep it Legal a Zoom presentation on 27th November 2004 has six members attending to date.

Facebook – National Office have suggested members look on YouTube.

It is hoped to have a Cyber Security Zoom talk on Staying Safe Online.

Canva Training – This is a free to use online graphic design tool useful for newsletter templates etc. The u3a have a programme of twelve, one hour sessions available and CC will send a link to committee members to appraise. **Post Meeting - Email sent to all Committee members giving this information in detail. Email sent to Roger Carter to explain position ..???**
a Zoom workshop early next year.

Website (PB) – Work is ongoing on improving and keeping items up to date. 482 sites are now live on Site Works.

Facebook – Mike Cook to be asked for an update for the December meeting.

Beacon – Nothing further to report.

Messenger (MEB) – Three articles have already been received for the January publication.

Regional Trustee (JC) – CC said that JC wished to thank everyone who attended the National AGM this week either in person or via Zoom. JC also mentioned that the hard work for the introduction of Fit for the Future now starts for the Third Age Trust Board of Directors. The Fit for the Future resolution was passed at TAT's AGM on 16/10/2024. The % needed was at least 75%, in fact 85% voted in favour.

Feedback on the October Quarterly Meeting: - Disappointed at the turnout. We need to get something to get people interested in attending.

PB provided details of a duo called Fools Gold.

AC said that Kevin Thornhill a dress designer and had worked for Emmanuel who had make Princess Dianas wedding dress was giving a talk at their u3a.

TM suggested a chocolatier their u3a were having for the AGM.

PB said that his wife Jean gives talks on Egyptology.

PB suggested we put a photo of whoever we ask to give a talk/demonstration on the website along with details of the event.

Three Year Plan – Ongoing.

Regional Leaflet – Mo Brown is arranging to have them printed and we hope to have some available at the 30th Anniversary. **Post meeting- Mo Brown contacted and she will bring them along to the Region’s 30th anniversary celebrations on Tuesday 22nd October.**

30th Anniversary (CC) – Plans are being finalised and TM is liaising with the Little Haven.

TM to ask if they have a television available where we could show photographs on a loop system.

61 people have said they are attending

Three people will speak at the Vote of Thanks after the meal – Cecilia Coulson (Chair), Vice Lord Lieutenant of Northumberland and Iain Cassidy the u3a new CEO.

Jane Mathieson has provided a copy of the first regional meeting held on the 14th January 1994 at Redhill’s, Durham. There were six u3as represented Darlington, Durham, Ponteland, Stockton, Tynedale and Wearside. It was noted that they had a combined total of 480 members. **Post meeting. This information has been forwarded to PB for possible inclusion in a video to be shown at 30th anniversary.**

Any Other Business –

January Quarterly Meeting will be held on 22nd January at the Gateshead Metro Centre, Green Zone.

Committee Meal – It was suggested that we all go for a meal after the January Quarterly Meeting.

Storage of Minutes – PB asked if we needed to keep them on the website and members agreed it was a useful means of letting members know what was discussed.

Next meeting 15th November at 14.00.

Name C Coulson **Position** Chair **Date** 15th November 2024

Name M Barlow **Position** Secretary **Date** 15th November 2024