



Northumbria Region u3a

Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

17th November 2023

From 14.00 – 15.55

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

Apologies: - Mike Wallace (MMW).

Welcome: - Cecilia welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Previous Minutes: - MW proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 20th October 2023 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by TW. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters arising: -

AC has previously mentioned that the cost of using their premises at Bishop Auckland has greatly increased. Their Chair has contacted Durham County council and as the u3a is a charity and they have used the premises for some time the charges have been reduced.

JC has received the 1000 leaflets the Region ordered. These leaflets introduce the u3a to non-members. It was agreed to begin distribution of these leaflets at the next quarterly Meeting in January.

The Regions North Quiz is being held on 20th March 2024.

Invoices for the use of Hylton Castle and the catering. These have not been received and MW has chased these up.

Reports: -

Chair (CC) – Report circulated.

Business Secretary (MEB) – No report.

Treasurer (MMW) – Report circulated.

MW asked if there had been a response from anyone regarding taking over from MMW when his time in office is up.

CC said that Paul Bradbury, Treasurer at Saltburn u3a had expressed an interest. CC gave him information on the monthly and quarterly meetings and suggested he look at the Roles and Responsibilities on the Regions website. He has also been invited to attend one of these meetings to get a feel of what happens.

Regional Events: - Report circulated.

The name of the music event will be Celebration of Music

Archaeology event at Durham University. It has been suggested that this takes place during the first two weeks in July 2024. It is anticipated there will be talks and tours, but details have yet to be finalised. CC has arranged a Zoom meeting in January with the University.

Communications (PB) – No report.

It was noted that some people had difficulty opening the links in the Pilot Council Update. Several committee members could not remember receiving this email therefore the secretary emailed copies to members. PB was able to open the links during the meeting.

AC noted that u3as do not appear to be sending in forms to update our lists of Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers. It is hoped to send out a reminder in the next Regional Newsletter and via Beacon.

Messenger (MEB) – The next edition is expected to be available in early January 2024.

Facebook (MC) – Mike Cook will be invited to the January meeting.

Liz Thackery's Visit (CC/JC) - It is hoped to finalise the exact dates shortly so that an agenda can be prepared.

Feedback on the quarterly meeting at Hylton Castle

Good venue, warm and plenty of food.

MW said some members asked why the meeting went on until 3pm as they felt they learned little from the afternoon quiz. CC replied the meeting was held so people could learn, be informed, network and have fun. Members were not obliged to stay for the afternoon session.

The next meeting will be at Brunswick Hall, Newcastle on 25th January 2024. Details are still being arranged.

Succession Planning

CC noted that Trevor Robinson has sent in an email resigning from the committee.

Geology Network – Elizabeth Devon from Duns and District, Scotland is looking into setting this up as a completely new venture and possibly as a cross border Network

Updating the history of the Regions leaflet – TW, Mo Brown and Christa Lloyd are working on the update.

They are asking what the purpose of the leaflet is. It was decided after much discussion that instead of a leaflet that the information should be updated and made available on the Regions website.

Photographic Competition – PB and Ian Wardlaw are putting information together on how the competition will be run. Information will be emailed to u3as and put in Messenger. It is anticipated that the competition will be held during January 2024 and that members will be able to send in up to three photographs. Themes are yet to be agreed.

They expect to have first, second and third prizes plus some highly recommended ones. Amazon Gift Vouchers were suggested for prizes. Judging will take place during February.

Short Story Competition – CC has received information on how the National Office run their competition. More information to follow shortly.

Agreement on Workshops during 2024

M Brown agreed to run Site Workshops

P Turner and J Mathieson agreed to run workshops on Running a Committee, AGMs and Governance.

Speakers List (PB) – Nothing to report.

Three Year Plan (CC) – Progress is being made.

Organising Quarterly Meetings 23/24 –

The Linskill Centre has been suggested as a possible venue for the 2024 AGM. JC to find out costs for using a room able to hold approximately 70 people. The meeting could be hybrid. A definitive decision hadn't been made yet.

Policies – No further information

Any Other Business

AC mention AAPs (Area Action Partnerships) which is a body of money held by Councillors for projects in their area. Sedgfield u3a have received £6k for projectors, trips etc.

Andrew Freckingham – He has been requesting minutes of the quarterly meeting of which a draft has yet to be published on the website. The minutes have been prepared and are being checked. **Post Meeting Note – Draft minutes are available on the website.**

Janice Bowden, Berwick u3a, spoke at the IT group this week on the use of Card Readers for collecting subscriptions etc. It was suggested that this may be of interest to Treasurers Networks.

Post meeting – YouTube link about the above discussion sent to Treasurers leads and Regional Committee Members. Compiled by Mo Brown.

The date of the next meeting is 15th December 2023.

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