



Northumbria Region u3a

Zoom Committee Meeting

21st October 2022

From 14.00 – 16.09

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Peter Barnett (PB), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Mary Dunning (MD), Ted Watt (TW), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Apologies: - Sandi Rickerby (SR), Ann Carr (AC) and Mike Wallace (MMW).

Welcome: - Cecilia welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes of the last meeting: - They were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising: - MD asked about the updating on the Speakers List – This will appear later in the minutes.

CC had mentioned she was preparing a PowerPoint on the u3a, but this has been postponed for the moment due to the possible re-structure of the movement.

Three Year Plan – This will appear later in the minutes.

Working Group Reports: - These have been put in abeyance for the moment.

Reports: -

Chair (CC) Report circulated.

Business Secretary (MEB) No report.

Treasurer (MMW) Report circulated.

Events It has proved to be a very successful year with at least one event still to come at Bambrough on 8th November 2022.

Details for events in 2023 are in the preparatory stage. (An Events Sub Committee meeting will take place in November 2022),

Communications (PB) No problems encountered at present.

Four to all Chairs, Secretaries, Treasurers, and others have been sent out this month to date.

PB is aware the website needs updating, and would we please advise him if we come across any out of date features.

PB has as yet not been in touch with the two people who may be able to assist him with the website but will do shortly.

TW mentioned he believes he is not receiving all the emails that should be coming his way. PB checked and has added his name to the circulation list.

Messenger (MEB) MEB had previously discussed with CC the possibility of changing a few details. Messenger was usually prepared and printed ready for the quarterly meetings but as they are no longer printed perhaps, we could put the publishing date midway between these meetings so reports on previous and the forth coming meeting can be included. Members thought this a good idea.

It was also suggested that we should have a continuous feature/s for members to look for and ideas put forward included gardening, people, buildings. CC suggested that as TW was interested in photography that he may like to prepare articles on that topic. He agreed to try this out.

Regional Trustee (CC standing in for SR)

Details of a restructure meeting for the u3a has been arranged for the morning of the 15th November. David Pattison, Mike Wallace, Doug Knox, Mo Brown, Kelvin Rushworth, Peter Chrichard, Arthur Coulson, Pam Turner, and Mary Dunning, Jane Mathieson and Cecilia Coulson are attending, with Liz Thackery as the chair.

Regional Trustee Role. An update will be given at a meeting on 16h December at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle from 10.30 to 12.30 followed by a meal somewhere in town.

All Regional Committee Members will be called Trust Volunteers in the future so they can claim expenses and be covered by insurance.

Quarterly Meeting 26th October. This is being held at Bowburn Community Centre. Twenty nine people have registered to attend so far. Durham u3a are providing five members to assist on the day.

Directions are on the website.

MW pointed out that the attendance is well down on pre-Covid days and perhaps a change of format may help attract more members.

MEB noted that she had attended a short Zoom meeting with John Lloyd and AC to discuss how the short talk on the national u3as AGM following the welcome can be integrated with the Workshop. JL had previously been given a list of prepared topics for the Workshop.

CC to ask at the meeting if anyone from the floor would be willing to:-

- a) Assist with the Three Year Plan.
- b) Join the Zoom restructure meeting.

Future Regional Meetings A group including MD, MMW and Pam Turner have been tasked with suggesting possible formats, venues, dates etc., for 2023. It was noted that we are waiting to hear if Pam is willing to join this group and once we have confirmation MD will call a meeting.

CC reminded the meeting that details of the 26th January Zoom meeting have been arranged and the speaker will be Alan Wormsley, Vice Chair of TAT. The topic will be Development Plans and Strategy.

Public Relations Advisor As Kelvin Rushworth has moved to the Lake District we are looking for someone who would be interested in taking on this role. If you are aware of anyone, please contact CC.

Feedback from Westerhope Workshop. CC had met and welcomed members at the door. It was well attended, and everyone was encouraged to voice their opinions. Members felt it was most enjoyable and that they had plenty of ideas to take back to their u3a.

A pdf MW the presentation by Paul Martinez was sent to members that attended the workshop. Both MW and MD have requested copies.

Speakers List PB, AC and MW are looking into ways of how the lists can be modified to make it easier to update and use.

Three Year Plan Originally CC, Mo Brown and Dr Pullen had been asked to join a group to prepare the plan. Mo Brown and Dr Pullen are both unable to commit to this for various reasons. DM, TW and CC will therefore take on this task and have arranged to hold a Zoom meeting on 4th November between 10.30 and 11.30.

The Wall (Hadrian's Wall) Due to time constraints Martin Rowell was unable to organise an event for u3a week this year. Ann Keating ex Regional Trust Advisor Scotland along with the national office are aiming to hold an event on 10th May 2023. Rooms have been booked at the Sill and Vindolanda but Northumbria u3a will not be prebooking rooms for accommodation as they thought it was better for each u3a intending to come to make their own arrangements. An email will be sent to Martin Rowell to advise him of the Committee's decision.

EDI Policy It is intended to use the National Policy as a template for a regional one. It was also felt that each u3a should be made aware of this policy and that perhaps Workshops could be organised. This will be discussed at the Regional Support Team meeting on 16th December 2022.

PB to send a copy of the national policy to all Business Secretaries.

Regional Support Meetings It is envisaged that these could be held every two months beginning with the meeting on 16th December.

Regional Grants CC mentioned how and why the Jesmond Grant project came into being. A lot of groups seemed to think that more money was available than there actually was.

It is proposed that Northumbria Region offer some grants in the future using some of the money we have in the bank. As MMW was not at the meeting this was held over to the November meeting.

MW has concerned that members are unable to attend events due to the costs involved.

Any Other Business

CC attended South East Northumberland Chairs meeting where they would like a Beacon Workshop. PB suggested contacting Alan Swindale and he was asked to do so. It was suggested that Workshops be arranged in the North and South of the region. CC to contact Chair of Prudhoe who requested such a workshop.

It was noted that more and more groups are using Beacon not just committee members.

Name	Cecilia Coulson	Position	Chair	Date	18 th November 2022
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Name	Mary Barlow	Position	Secretary	Date	18 th November 2022
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