



Northumbria Region u3a

Zoom Committee Meeting

20th October 2023

From 14.00 – 16.20

Present: - Cecilia Coulson (CC), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Mike Wallace (MMW), Ann Carr (AC), Peter Barnett (PB), Trevor Robinson (TR), Ted Watt (TW), Mary Barlow (MEB)

Apologies: - Jean Cubbin (JC), Sandi Rickerby (SR).

Welcome: - CC welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for having to use a different Zoom link but the Northumbria account was double booked. Note: - M Brown has been given an updated list of when we will be holding meetings.

Previous Minutes: - MW proposed the minutes of the meeting held on 15th September 2023 be accepted as an accurate record and seconded by MMW. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters arising: -

- a) AC said the feedback she had received on the July quarterly meeting was that they had liked the new format.
- b) MMW had contacted Robert Berry, and all was on course once again at his u3a.
- c) PB had given CC full access to Beacon. CC confirmed this but said she had yet not had reason to use the access.
- d) PB/MEB/CC held a Zoom meeting regarding updating the regions website.
- e) MW asked AC if Bishop Auckland had contacted anyone regarding the large increase in the cost of using the room for their u3a meeting. AC confirmed the chair had reluctantly accepted the increase.
- f) CC thanked MMW for payment of her expenses.
- g) MMW confirmed he had received K Rushworth's expenses, but they had as yet not been paid.
- h) CC had received an old out of date banner from M Brown. It was agreed that this can be disposed of.
- i) Leaflets for use in ambulances etc. CC has emailed SR but has not received a response.

Reports: -

Chair (CC) – Report circulated.

CC, MMW, M Brown and MEB attended the 'Celebration of Life' event for John Lloyd held at the Bangladesh Centre in Sunderland on 18th October. It was well attended and apart from family there were representations from the firm where he had worked along with people from the various organisations, he was a member of.

Business Secretary (MEB): - No report.

Treasurer (MMW) – A set of accounts has been circulated.

The Charity Commission has a new log in system. CC confirmed that she has given access to MMW and MEB to set up an account and the last set of financial accounts have been added to their system.

Events (CC) –

Invitation to Art Network and Northern Region Quiz details have been circulated.

Northern and Southern Quiz events - There was a discussion regarding the £250 offered. It was confirmed that this was to cover the year no matter how many quiz events they held.

Further discussion was held on whether a set of accounts for these events should be provided, and it was agreed the information was necessary. Mr Pullen will provide a set of accounts for the north and MMW will contact Ruth Beckett regarding receiving accounts for the southern event.

Festival of Music – This will cost in the region of £1,130. CC asked MMW if the same system could be used to collect numbers and money for the quarterly meetings using the Goole system could be used for this event. MMW could see no problems using this system.

Members who were coming to listen to or support their u3a would be charged for admission and the buffet, but performers would receive a free buffet and no admission fee.

It was agreed a cut off date for numbers was required to confirm that the event was viable.

The event will be publicised in Messenger, Facebook, Regions Website, Chairs etc., Newsletter.

Communications – PB no report.

Facebook – CC and MEB had agreed that we would only ask Mike Cook for a report on a quarterly basis.

Messenger (MEB) – The latest edition is on the regions website and has been distributed in the latest newsletter to chairs etc.

Regional Trustee – No report received.

AC asked if JC could be asked to provide a regular update to this committee. CC replied that she would be seeing JC and would raise this point.

Quarterly Meeting at Hylton Castle: - 31 people have registered to attend of which 28 will require lunch. This is an increase in numbers from those already given to the caterer. MW rang and gave them an update and they agreed it would not cause a problem.

It was agreed in future that we would require an email address on the Google form and a cut off date for the return of the form.

CC has said that as finding suitable venues was difficult that u3as would be asked to host these meetings.

Succession Planning (CC) –

Would members please read the Constitution, Section 18 Officers, and Trustees.

CC would like to know who may be due to come off the committee at the next AGM.

The dates that MEB holds for members joining this committee are:-

Ted Watt – 16.09.22

Trevor Robinson – 26.04.23

Ann Carr – 24.04.19

Malcolm Wilkinson – 25.04.22

Mike Wallace – 25.04.18

Peter Barnett – 31.07.20

Cecilia Coulson – 25.04.22

Mary Barlow – 24.04.19

- a) Do you wish to continue on the committee next year.
- b) Do you know anyone who would be willing to take on your role when you retire.
- c) Do you know anyone who would be willing to join this committee.

New Networks: - Various initiatives are taking place regarding this.

TAT AGM (CC): – CC and MEB attended this meeting via Zoom. CC gave a brief outline of what took place and confirmed that the Trust would be putting the meeting online.

Roles and Responsibilities for Regional Committee Members. - It was decided by CC and MEB that it wasn't going to be tweaked, but put in full on the Region's website. PB confirmed that the Roles and Responsibilities document was already on the website.

Visit by Liz Thackery (CC): – It was confirmed that she would be coming week commencing 8th April 2024 and she normally stays for two nights giving her time to visit various u3as. Planning is still in the early stages.

Updating History of the Region leaflet (CC): - TW, M Brown and C Lloyd will meet to discuss updating same.

Any Other Business

Dawn Tweddle is offering an old sound system to any u3a who may be interested as they have invested in a new system.

Regional Photography Regional Competition – It was agreed that topics/themes would have to be set. PB suggested Wessington u3a may be able to assist with this.

Short Story and Poetry competition - With pre-set topics/themes will be discussed by the Regional u3a Creative Writing Group.

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