



Northumbria Region u3a

Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

17th October 2025

From 14.00 to 15.40

Present: - Wendy Dale (WD), Theresa Mulkerrin (TM), Peter Barnett (PB), Moira Stokoe (MS), Ann Carr (AC), Jean Cubbin (JC), Kathy Clegg (KC), Cecilia Coulson (CC), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Apologies: - Ted Watt, Malcolm Wilkinson, Keith Allison (attended for short time but internet went down in his area).

Minutes: - WD asked if the minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th September 2025 were a true record. All in attendance agreed they were.

Matters arising: -

Messenger – As few articles are being received it was agreed that this would be mentioned at the meeting being held on 22nd October 2025 and in the next email sent out by PB to all Chairs etc.

Tips for Treasurers – TM will get in touch with Catherine Stevenson regarding getting a version suitable for the website.

Zoom – Mo Brown (MB) no longer wishes to organise the diary etc., for this once the current licence expires in May 2026. It was agreed we will run with the current licence and ask TM to reimburse MB cost of this. TM suggested that if need be in future we could use the 45 minute free version for our meetings. **Post Meeting Note – MEB emailed MB to ask her to forward the invoice for the licence to TM.**

Minutes and reports – It was suggested that the minutes should have the relevant reports attached prior to being put on the website. **Post Meeting Note – MEB has emailed PB asking for advice on the best way of doing this.**

Chairs Report (WD): - Report circulated on constitutional changes.

There was much discussion on whether we could amend our current constitution or start afresh. It was also suggested that we set up a small working party to look at the constitution. JC emailed the other areas to see what they have done regarding their constitutions.

JC pointed out that the name Northumbria Region is causing problems within the national office and that we need to change our name to North East u3a quickly. TM pointed out that members are already asking who to make payment to.

We need to hold an EGM or AGM to change our name. This would have implications for the Charity Commission, bank account, website, banners etc.

JC also pointed out that her time of office expires next year and we need to start looking for a replacement. This will be mentioned at the regional meeting next Wednesday.

Business Secretary (MEB): - This morning an email was received Dr Volodymyr Chapman which was circulated to members prior to the meeting asking for assistance in developing AI tools for doctors and pharmacies. It was agreed that PB would put a short note on our website in case u3as are interested.

Treasurers Report (TM): - Report circulated.

TM reported that various invoices have been paid since the report was circulated including urns to keep tea/coffee hot for the South Regional Quiz. WD asked that in future that where items like this are required for an event that the committee is informed of the possible expense and that the item/s are made available for use within the region. The Chair of the South Durham Chairs committee is to be asked to bring it to the notice of members that this committee needs to be informed before items are purchased.

WD asked if the final accounts have been provided for the Charity Commission. TM said she was not sure she had access to our account but would follow this up. **Post Meeting Note – TM confirmed that the Annual Submission has been processed.**

Third Age Trust (JC & KC): - JC noted that not many people turned up in person for the Trusts AGM but many more joined the meeting via Zoom.

Events Committee (CC): - Two reports circulated a) Regional Events Committee report b) Ushaw Planning Meeting.

34 People have so far signed up for the Holy Island zoom talk.

TM asked what information was needed on the Google forms and what details events hosts needed from her and when.

TM needs to know how hosts of venues want to be paid i.e. deposit, paid in full after an event.

It was agreed that in future that members pay to attend events in advance as some members have shown interest in attending events but have not turned up on the day.

Communications (PB): - The website has a steady 100/200 visits per week and the three most visited sites are events, members pages and messenger.

Speakers List – PB thanked AC for all the work undertaken updating this list and since members were informed a new list was available four new members have asked for access.

WD asked PB to delete mention of quarterly meetings and put regional meeting instead.

PB noted that this region started using Beacon in July 2021 and suggested that some areas of the system need updating and would JC and KC please mention this at the next national meeting they attend.

PB asked why an item on sky diving was on the Facebook page but on the website. WD said it was an omission on her part.

Networks (WD): - WD asked if any members present attended any of these meetings. TM and MEB attend some of the regions and national treasurers meetings. It was agreed that this item should be looked at again at a future meeting.

Regional Meeting 22.10.25: - TM said 72 members had so far said they would attend.

CC has agreed to see to the registration of members as they arrive.

WD, JC, KC and CC asked for a copy of the list of members proposing to attend.

CC has agreed to bring stick on labels for members to put their name on so everyone has a name tag.

It was agreed that the meeting would be begin with WD greeting everyone and giving out any notices, CC informing people of future events, JC will give a PowerPoint presentation followed by Allan Walmsley, WD to close the meeting. Lunch.

PB offered to help JC set up her equipment.

TM said that three members have said they will be attending but have not yet paid.

Annual General Meeting 2026: - Would any member who may be thinking of standing down please inform WD.

Any Other Business

PB has said he is holding some equipment which may be useful at next weeks meeting.

Members were asked to inform MEB of any equipment they hold and where it is stored. **Post Meeting Note – TM emailed to say she had the asset register and would like members to email her with the information so that it can be updated.**

Date of next meeting is 21st November 2025 at 2p.m.

Name K Allison **Position** Caretaker Chair **Date** 21st November 2025

Name M E Barlow **Position** Secretary **Date** 21st November 2025