

u3a

North East Region

Minutes of the Zoom Committee Meeting

15th May 2026

From 14.00 to 15.25

Present: - Keith Allison (KA), Theresa Mulkerrin (TM), Moira Stokoe (MS), Kathy Clegg (KC), Cecilia Coulson (CC), Peter Barnett (PB), Malcolm Wilkinson (MW), Arthur Coulson (AC), Mary Barlow (MEB).

Apologies: - Jane Mathieson (JM),

Welcome – KA welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Minutes - MW proposed that the minutes of the 17th April 2026 meeting was a true record and CC seconded the motion. The members present agreed they were, and the proposal was accepted.

Matters arising -

National are looking at the possibility of each u3a having a publicity/marketing person. This should read each u3a region not each u3a.

CC had mentioned to Iain Cassidy at Ushaw that they had reduced subscriptions and he replied that instead they could have provided each member with a copy of TAM. CC was not sure that would have gone down well with their u3a members.

Reports –

Chair (KA) – Report circulated.

Discussion held on whether we should hold regional meetings every 3, 4 or 6 months. We agreed to hold them every 4 months and aim to hold the next meeting towards the end of September.

Business Secretary (MEB) – Confirmed Charity Commission accepted our name change awaiting information regarding the constitution.

Treasurer (TM) – Report circulated.

Regarding Ushaw Day – First summary of accounts show Region subsidised the day by approximately £1,200.00. £75 was taken on the day. Bob Pullen is the contact person regarding the cost of the PA system.

The Charity Commission have been provided with the latest year end accounts.

TM will be contacting Barclays Bank regarding the name change.

All equipment has been written down in the accounts.

Events (CC) – Next team meeting 1st June.

Article and photos of Ushaw Day are being sent to National for publication in various issues e.g. newsletters, TAM etc.

All electrical items used at events **must** be PAT tested for insurance purposes.

MS said she had had 86 responses to her feedback email on Ushaw 36 were beyond expectations, 45 met expectations and 5 below.

60% had not previously attended an event.

Further evaluation of the event is ongoing.

A massive thanks to all who organised the day.

Communication (PB) –

Website – The name change is well underway and if anyone spots the old name on an article etc., please inform PB.

Site Works – PB will be contacting u3as to make sure they update links to the website.

List of Chairs etc for Newsletters etc. - PB says the current list is 80% accurate. CC and MS have a large number of email addresses from people attending events and they may wish to receive updates on forthcoming events etc. PB said if they send him their lists he would with ACs help be able to check if the addresses are on the system he holds and if not they would be copied and pasted in. Data Protection does not say we cannot use these lists but they must be kept inhouse.

Facebook – MEB has not had a response from Mike Cook and will contact Mo Brown as they belong to the same u3a. **Post Meeting Note – Emailed Mo Brown who replied saying he and his wife are on holiday.**

Regional Representative (KC) – Report circulated.

Networks – Other representatives have divided their region into areas and KC and JM are looking to do something similar within our region. They are not particularly looking at setting up role networks.

CC pointed out that Whickham area are looking to set up a Speakers related Network.

Whickham are looking into setting up a satellite area u3a.

It is hoped to organise workshop days within the region.

AGM Review and future Regional meetings – It was thought that having a speaker or something after the meeting would be advantageous.

Members interrupted each other at the AGM and we need to look at having tighter control of the meeting.

We looked at varying the weekday it was held on but agreed you cannot please everyone.

North Biddick Club, Durham Bowling Club, Bowburn, Metro Centre, Hylton Castle and Redhills Durham were some of the venues to consider for future meetings.

Sunniside Club was chosen as a possible venue for the next meeting towards the end of September. Date etc., were deferred until the next meeting.

Karen Green (Network Link Lead) – She will be coming and visiting JMs Network and will attend some Network Zoom meetings.

Any Other Business

Policies – These need to be updated and the name changed.

Broadband – The current system for telephone lines is being changed and moved to Broadband. The system providers should contact each person directly but there are concerns for the older population.

The next Regional Meeting is 2pm 19th June 2026.

Name A Coulson **Position** Vice Chair **Date** 19th June 2026

Name M E Barlow **Position** Secretary **Date** 19th June 2026