

Zoom minutes of committee meeting held on Wednesday 30th September 2020
PRESENT:

John Rutherford	JR	Group Convenor Co-ordinator
Ian Webb	IW	Website coordinator
Pete Burrow	PB	Social activities secretary
Averil Fendley	AF	Membership secretary
Pauline Wilson	PW	Business secretary/Acting chair

1. Apologies for absence: Lesley Patterson

2. Proposed composition of committee, and committee roles.

Following the digital AGM, we have 2 nominations to join the committee - Tony Henry and Pamela Campbell. PW outlined some of the discussions that had gone on before lockdown. It had generally been agreed that we should have a vice chair. When Coquetdale U3A was first set up the business secretary was vice chair to Alan Fendley but never succeeded him as chair. Successive chairs Karenza Storey and Geoff Hoskin did not have vice chairs. We also had a prior discussion about the size of the committee and whether new members should be co-opted for specific roles/periods. Within the current structure we have 3 vacancies – chair, business secretary and publicity secretary. PW agreed to be acting chair until December as she intends moving away from the area.

We agreed to ask Tony to be chair and Pamela to be business secretary. JR asked if the vice chair would automatically become chair after Tony's tenure and we agreed that this would be the case. PB asked who would take on the role of finding speakers as it might be easier for someone to do that who was not new to the area. PW said that for the time being as there had been no open meetings since March there would be enough speakers to fill the slots. In addition, the NE Region has compiled a list of speakers who are willing to offer talks. PW has the list. All the previous chairs had taken on the responsibility of finding speakers but in other U3As it has been the responsibility of the business secretary or a dedicated person. We agreed that this role should be attached to the business secretary. For

the time being we will leave the role of publicity secretary vacant.

Current group activities

JR said that the Jubilee Institute had opened and the poetry reading group and photography group had started meeting but in the light of the new restrictions across the NE that may not be the case now. He said that the walking group were not meeting. JR said that he would contact group convenors to find out if any groups were meeting digitally. In respect of social activities, PB said that there were 2 Theatre Royal events which were going ahead next year and 3 Alnwick Theatre events.

Action: PW will invite Tony and Pamela to join the committee and will set up separate zoom meetings to help induct them into their roles, with the intention that there will be a full committee meeting in November/ December.