

Hartlepool and District U3A
Minutes of the Committee Meeting Grange Road Methodist Church
Friday 29th July 2022

Present: Roger Say, Phil Jefferies, Wendy Borthwick, Keith Alder, Irene Archer, Cliff Cordiner, Linda Sargent, Don Taylor, Pauline Williamson

Roger welcomed Irene, Cliff, Don and Pauline to the meeting.

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of Meeting Friday 24th June 2022

Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Item 3 The Singing Group had been removed from the list of groups. No action was necessary for adding the Tai Chi group as this had been listed under Shibashi.

Item 7 Phil had still to put out a general reminder regarding contact details.

Action: Phil

Item 9 Details of September's speaker were now on the website. Roger would look for the banner at the next general meeting. **Action: Roger**

4. Chair's Report

Roger had contacted members of the Spanish Group who felt they could no longer operate without an experienced leader. Roger would contact Barry to have it removed from the Newsletter. **Action: Roger**

The new Constitution had been accepted by the Charity Commission on 14th July. It now needs to be lodged with the Charity Commission on their website.

Action: Phil

Roger had registered our vote for the TAT Board of Directors; Sandi Rickerby as North East Region director and Alan Walmsley as vice president.

He had also contacted Jessica and reported that speakers had now been booked until December. He suggested that a fuddle should take place on a regular basis as part of a social event and it was agreed the next one would take place in January. He would send a list to Phil to be put on the website.

Action: Roger and Phil

Roger had received an email from Northumbria Region asking for details of the Committee so that they could put the information on their website. He had not actioned this due to data protection concerns and would contact Mo Brown to find out who would have access to this data. **Action: Roger**

The Committee had previously discussed having a dedicated u3a mobile phone for a first line of contact and this purchase should be expedited.

5. Secretary's Report/Correspondence

This item was deferred until the Secretary's position could be filled.

6. Treasurer's Report

Phil reported that the Financial Summary was previously circulated and the situation was still looking good, with a balance of some £5500.

The reporting error in accruals 20/21 discussed in April had led him to contact TAT for advice on reporting this to the Charity Commission. He had been given contact details for someone who could give advice and took their failure to reply within 3 months as an indication that reporting to the Charity Commission was not required.

Phil had received a TAT circular regarding renewing licences for photocopying for study purposes but decided that this did not apply to us.

Chris McLoughlin and Anne Tarbitt would need to be taken off the list of signatories for NatWest Bank but he would defer this until we get new Committee members. At least one more signatory would be required at NatWest to replace them and Phil hoped to organise this at the next committee meeting.

Chris had sent in the Annual Return in April which should have triggered the sending of an invoice for our annual subs, but this had not materialised. He had chased this up with TAT but had not yet received a reply. The Beacon invoice had been paid.

The £150 associated with the Spanish Group would be absorbed back into the general fund. Phil explained that the start up fund that groups could apply for was to cover costs such as room hire, which should not fall on the group leader to cover. Groups should operate on a self-financing basis. Roger said he had a u3a printer which groups could use.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Wendy reported 95 paid up members, with 8 coming post Covid. There had been 5 prospective members at the Fuddle and she had received 2 enquiries in the past week. She thought that we were moving forward on a positive note.

8. Election of Executive Officers and Roles

Irene, Cliff, Don and Pauline were all willing to join the Committee.

Chair Roger agreed to continue in this role for another year.

Vice Chair Wendy would continue in this role.

Treasurer Cliff volunteered to be Treasurer and gave a brief resume of his financial background. Phil would continue until the handover could be completed, possibly September.

Business Secretary Pauline expressed a willingness to take on this role.

Membership Secretary Wendy would continue in this role, although it would be her final year.

Minutes Secretary Linda would continue as Minutes Secretary.

Group Co-ordinator Deferred.

Speaker Finder Deferred.

New Committee members would need forms so that they could be lodged as Trustees with the Charity Commission. Cliff would need this before he could be made a signatory at NatWest. Roger would get the forms for the next meeting. **Action: Roger**

9. TAT AGM

This would take place on Thursday 6th October at 11.15. Members could join in via a link on the national website. Hartlepool u3a has 1 vote based on current membership levels. 3 resolutions are proposed:

- 1 Changes to the Memorandum and Articles of Association (a tidying up exercise)
- 2 Index-linking TATS subs against UK State Pension from April 2023
- 3 In the event of Resolution 2 being defeated, a proposal to bring this change into effect from April 2024

Phil explained the benefits of belonging to TAT and after discussion, the Committee voted to accept these proposals by a majority decision.

10. Any Other Business

Wendy had previously been contacted by a lady who could potentially offer languages to groups. Wendy would get in touch and explore possibilities.

Action: Wendy

The question of how group leaders knew who was a u3a member was raised. This information was available on Beacon and Phil thought it would take less than an hour's training to use the database, or he had a crib sheet which could help. Phil wanted contact names for the Natural History group so that he could put these on the website with a link that would allow people to email the nominated contact without revealing the email address. Irene would contact the other 2 joint group leaders to see if they had any objection to their details being put on the website. She would then give Roger the information for him to pass the information to Barry for the Newsletter and Phil for the website.

Action: Irene

Phil would send the crib sheet to Keith for the Walking Group and Irene.

Action: Phil

Wendy had received a request from the Shibashi group leader to move the demo originally taking place before September's speaker as she thought this might impact on the speaker's presentation. Roger said that this demo would now take place after the presentation.

The Luncheon Group had to close temporarily due to lack of interest.

Cliff gave details to Roger of an organisation called Seascapes which gave talks on marine subjects and local history and would be an interesting addition to next year's speaker programme. **Action: Roger**

11. Date of next meeting

Friday 26th August 2022 10.30 at Grange Road Methodist Church. Irene and Don gave their apologies.