



Hartlepool and District U3A
Minutes of the Committee Meeting Grange Road Methodist Church
Friday 28th October 2022

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

1. Apologies: Wendy Borthwick

2. Minutes of Meeting Friday 30th September 2022
Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Item 3 Roger had sent the speaker list to Phil. He had also contacted Barry Liddle and confirmed that he would be the December speaker although the subject was not yet finalised.

Item 5 Pauline would give an update on Groups under Item 6.

Item 8 Cliff had attended the Regional Treasurers' Forum via Zoom and would report under Item 4

Item 10 Irene had checked the Sportability protocol, an information book was kept locked in a cupboard and could be accessed when required. Cliff said that the Fire Brigade were not providing first aid courses.

Item 12 The Shibashi article had appeared in the Newsletter. The Groups' Information boards would be put up at the next general meeting.

4. Treasurer's Report

The handover to Cliff had been completed. Cliff had previously circulated the Financial Summary and reported a quiet month with room hire and the TAT annual membership fee being the major expenditure. He had also included forecast expenditure to the end of the financial year to get a clearer picture. Going forward, we need about 235 members to break even at the current subscription level, which meant increasing new members or raising the subscription rate. He undertook to bring a report to the Committee in the New Year. **Action: Cliff**

The Regional Treasurers' Forum had been facilitated by Catherine Stevenson.

- Speaker Swap and Regional Network Speakers should be encouraged as they were free. Members should also be made more aware of national and regional events
- TAT AGM was discussed at length with everyone now waiting for a further briefing from them. It appears that TAT is still pressing on with their development plans despite all amendments being rejected and a forecast £700k deficit this year. There is a workshop at the end of October asking members what they want from the u3a and TAT.

- There are videos of the 40th Anniversary celebrations now available on YouTube.
- Gift Aid was discussed but it seemed that only large u3as who can dedicate an Assistant Treasurer to it currently use this.
- A survey of subscriptions charged revealed that we had the lowest amount, with most u3as charging around £25.
- Year end dates for both subscriptions and annual accounts were discussed and left for each u3a to decide what works for them.

Phil had successfully completed the online form for changing bank signatories. He had given Cliff links for setting up online banking and debit card and removing Chris and Anne from the list of signatories.

5. Business Secretary's Report

Phil expressed concern as to the future of TAT. Its demise would mean loss of insurance cover, Beacon, the website and advice.

He had received an email from Region asking for volunteers to help them update the 3-year-plan.

He had received an email from Sandi Rickerby at Region regarding an "Introduction to Social Change and Influencing" workshop being held at Edinburgh, with the possibility of it being repeated in the future.

He had circulated an email received from Liz Thackray, Chair of TAT, regarding the aftermath of the AGM to the Committee on 13th October.

He had received an email from TAT on 14th October highlighting new advice on the website which covered environmental issues, risk assessments and updated versions of various role descriptions.

TAT had sent him an email on 20th October regarding Movement Wide Learning Opportunities which provided links to various online events via Zoom.

He had received an email on 21st October from Region, asking him to distribute the regional newsletter to members. Phil thought it best to distribute it as a one off and if anyone wanted to receive it regularly then arrangements could be made. **Action: Phil**

Phil was investigating whether Mac users could access old records in cloud storage using Microsoft OneDrive and Google's G-Drive.

6. Group Co-ordinator's Report

Pauline reported that matters were progressing well. All leaders apart from one had responded to the questionnaire and she was awaiting clarification from one leader as there was a discrepancy between the website and Beacon. Family History was now looking for a new group leader; one member was willing to give one-to-one help but unable to take on the group leader's role.

No-one had come forward to take on group leader roles for Gardening and Luncheon Group so these would now be removed from the list. **Action:**

Roger

Irene Williams was not continuing as group leader for Reading but would continue in the role of Board Games leader. Numbers for this were uncertain so it would need advertising.

Pauline had sent out an email inviting interest in the Music, Reading and Quiz groups. Andrea Reid had agreed to become Group Leader for Reading and premises had been found at the Central Hub. The Quiz Leader John Campbell had confirmed he was prepared to lead with 8 current members. Music

Appreciation needed another 4 members to be viable. Pauline said she would again bring these groups to the members' attention at the next general meeting. **Action: Pauline**

Pauline confirmed what materials would be needed to make use of the notice boards at the general meetings.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

In the absence of Wendy, Phil reported that membership was now 99, with one member having died, and the possibility of a couple of potential members. Wendy highlighted the fact we need to step up our recruitment campaign and one outcome from the training session she and Pauline attended was the use of social media such as Facebook in marketing. It was suggested that Roger ask at the next general meeting if anyone was adept at using social media and might be willing to take on this role. **Action: Roger**

8. Chair's Report

Roger had attended the TAT AGM via Zoom. He noted that difficulties in recruitment seemed to affect all levels of the organisation. As previously reported, all amendments regarding raising subscription rates had failed. Roger did feel that there was some acknowledgement at TAT of the complaints made against their current direction.

On December 16th he would be meeting Alec Gray from Hartlepool and Stockton Health to raise our profile. He would investigate with him the possibility of advertising our u3a in local doctors' surgeries. **Action: Roger**
The new mobile phone had already been put to use with a potential member contacting him.

Roger was still looking for speakers and was given some ideas.

9. TAT AGM

The Committee felt that this subject had already been sufficiently covered.

10. Recruitment

It was agreed that a personal approach was very effective and we need to make an effort to get out into the community. The stall at the Central Hub would become a regular quarterly event. Posters were also useful. Roger noted that any publicity material previously supplied for free by TAT now incurred a charge. It was uncertain whether our general meetings were still included in the local paper and Phil would follow this up with Chris. **Action:**

Phil

Roger noted that the Hartlepool Natural History Group had recently folded and he had brought our u3a to the current members' attention.

Roger had identified a possible new committee member and he would approach them before the next Committee meeting. **Action: Roger**

11. AOB

Roger said that Don Taylor had resigned from the Committee due to personal commitments.

Irene gave details of a First Aid training firm who would provide 3 hours of training for £75. The course would run whenever there were sufficient numbers. There was a First Aid box in the kitchen at St. Joseph's and it was thought a foil blanket would be a useful addition. The nearest defibrillator was located at the Civic Centre.

It was agreed that Roger should ask members who had particular health issues if they would like to communicate these to the Committee in case of an emergency. This information could be securely stored on Beacon. **Action:**

Roger

Roger would bring the laptop to the next general meeting. **Action: Roger**

Phil noted that the July 2023 general meeting coincided with a visit to Hartlepool by the Tall Ships and thought a maritime-themed lecture would be appropriate. Roger would contact local maritime organisations. **Action: Roger**
Phil would try and obtain contact details for the Retired Gentlemen's Forum speaker finder. **Action: Phil**

Phil reported that Wendy had noted that, due to the heaviness of the new tables at St. Joseph's, some members would be unable to help in re-arranging the room.

It was expected that the Shibashi group leader would give her postponed demonstration at the next general meeting.

Pauline gave her apologies for the November Committee meeting.

13. Date of Next Meeting

10.30 Friday 2th November 2022 at Grange Road Methodist Church.