



Hartlepool and District U3A
Minutes of the Committee Meeting Grange Road Methodist Church
Friday June 30th 2023 at 10.30 a.m.

Present: Roger Say, Cliff Cordiner, Irene Archer, Andrea Reid, Pauline Williamson.
Linda Sargent

1. Apologies: Keith Alder, Wendy Borthwick

2. Minutes of Meeting 26th May 2023

Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Item 4 The TAT pie chart had been included in the June Newsletter.

Item 5 Roger had given the list of speakers to Phil. In Wendy's absence it was uncertain whether Trustee details had been updated. Phil could be asked at the general meeting for confirmation. **Action: Cliff**

Item 6 Cliff had established that the sort of raffles we might hold did not require a licence and he had informed the relevant parties.

Item 10 Roger had informed TAT that he would cast our vote at the AGM.

Item 11 Cliff would address the subject of grants in his Treasurer's report.

4. Committee Positions

The following Committee positions were agreed.

Chair	Roger
Treasurer	Cliff
Business Secretary	Wendy
Membership Secretary	Andrea
Group Co-ordinator	Pauline

Linda was elected President for the year. This would allow her to attend Committee meetings and continue taking minutes but without any voting rights.

Pauline would take over the role of Beacon Administrator.

Roger noted that this was the last year he could stand as Chair. No new Committee members had come forward.

5. Treasurer's Report

Cliff had previously circulated the June financial statement. Activity was settling down with just a few payments for speakers and room hire. He noted that this financial year about 40% of the membership paid by BACS.

TAT had been informed previously that we had 110 members which was the basis for TAT charges. After members who had still not renewed were marked as lapsed, our membership now stands at 105. Cliff expected to get back any overpayment from TAT in due course.

Cliff had received a letter from Grange Road saying that the premises had been sold and the new owners would be taking over at the end of July. It should not affect our use of the building but a new agreement would be required.

Cliff had also received notification from Northumbria Region saying we would not be charged for the year 23/24, a saving of some £25. After the demise of Ryton and Jesmond u3as, any money accrued will be distributed to the remaining u3as and this is expected to be in the region of £40 to £60.

Cliff had participated in a Regional Treasurers' Zoom meeting chaired by Catherine Stevenson. Points of interest were:

- Durham and Dunelm u3as were likely to merge to ensure their future
- TAT offered grants of £130 to fund open days that were offered to non u3a members. Other grants were available for events opened up to a national audience. Organisations could obtain grants of up to £200 through councils if certain conditions were met.
- Some u3as only allowed 2 weeks for membership renewals
- Most u3as allowed affiliate and associate members to attend meetings
- How non-members were finding out about the u3a
- Bank closures were making it harder to bank cash
- Plans for the u3a showcase week were not very advanced
- More needs to be done to promote regional and national events, subject networks and online communities
- There seemed to be a North/South divide with the North leaning towards groups that had a more social rather than an educational bias. There was concern that purely social groups might invalidate insurance cover but it was agreed an educational element could be found in all activities.
- Various updates to Guidance had been done or were planned with a brand new Health and Safety Policy. Given the difficulty in recruiting and forming Committees, the Constitution and tenure of officers was under review
- The charges for a Copyright Licence had increased.

Cliff noted that in discussion with Wendy the need to give some group leaders Beacon training had arisen. This would ensure group members' details were current.

Cliff had previously circulated information on u3a Insurance Guidance and Social Prescribing.

6. Business Secretary's Report

In her absence, Wendy had submitted a written report to the Chair.

She had attended a Business Secretary's Zoom meeting on 6th June chaired by Catherine Stevenson. Many of the items addressed had already been covered in the Treasurers' meeting attended by Cliff. She noted that Facebook seems to have been a very productive marketing tool.

She was due to complete the Business Secretary handover on June 28th and then inform relevant organisations of any change in details.

7. Group Co-ordinator's report

Pauline said that the Art Appreciation group had started with co-leaders appointed. Meetings were scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday of the month 10.00 – 12.00 at Christ Church.

She had investigated booking a room with parking for the Music group. The funds from the old Music Appreciation group were still available.

The "Reading the Classics" group had been renamed as the Tuesday Book Club.

The Cycling Club was still on hold.

Progress on the Mind, Body and Spirit group was uncertain as the group leader had started a new Shibashi group on a Wednesday afternoon.

Pauline needed to see the Family History group leader for more information.

Although the Luncheon Club no longer exists, she expected that there would be 3 or so occasions per year when people could meet up and go out for a meal.

The Social Prescriber expected to attend the last meeting had confused dates so Pauline went to her office and had a useful meeting with the whole team.

Pauline had attended a Group Co-ordinators Zoom meeting.

She intended to organise a meeting for all group leaders to say thank you.

A number of other group start ups were being considered.

8. Membership Secretary's Report

Andrea confirmed that we now had 105 members. Phil Jefferies had given her a training session on Beacon. There was a Membership Secretaries' Zoom meeting on 3rd July.

9. Chair's Report

Roger had attended the South Durham Chairs' meeting on June 6th. There were still succession issues even at the most populated u3as. 2 u3as have stopped issuing membership cards but the Committee thought they would prove useful if attending meetings at other u3as. Roger was also given the names of possible speakers.

He had registered who was to vote at the AGM and had sent out information on resolutions received. These would need to be discussed at a future Committee meeting. **Action: Roger**

Roger had been unable to take up his booking at the Central Hub on 22nd June and had re-booked for 5th July.

The next general meeting was scheduled during the Tall Ships event. He would check the use of microphones with Phil. **Action: Roger**

10. Any Other Business

Roger would send Cliff details of the speaker for payment. **Action: Roger**

11. Date of next meeting

Friday 28th July 10.30 at Grange Road Methodist Church