



Hartlepool and District U3A
Minutes of the Committee Meeting Grange Road Methodist Church
Friday May 26th 2023 10.30 a.m.

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

1. Apologies: Phil Jefferies

2. Minutes of Meeting 28th April 2023

Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Item 5 The Annual Return had been sent in.

Item 7 Roger had received the membership cards from Wendy.

Item 10 The change in signatories for the cheques would be actioned after the AGM.

4. Treasurer's Report

Cliff had previously circulated the financial summary. He had sent out reminders to those still needing to renew and there were 6 still outstanding. Having paid all TAT charges, the accounts still showed a healthy balance. There had been no news from the Region but he would attend a Network meeting on 12th June.

Cliff had received information from TAT that, instead of the deficit expected for this year, it now looked as though there would be a surplus. Feedback from the membership after last year's AGM had indicated that TAT should be more prudent and TAT had listened, spending less money than planned. They had trimmed back expenditure, spent less on recruiting and believed that the cost of living crisis had not affected them. There would be no proposal at this year's AGM to increase fees.

Cliff noted that grants available from TAT after Covid to grow the membership base through local activities and workshops were still available. Membership nationally had shrunk since before Covid.

TAT had also sent a pie chart giving a detailed breakdown of how the £4 membership fee is spent. TAT had requested that this be made more widely available to memberships and it was agreed that the Newsletter would be the best vehicle for this. Cliff would send details to Barry to see if it were technically possible to include it. **Action: Cliff**

Cliff also noted that HMRC were challenging TAT's advice on u3as being able to claim gift aid.

5. Business Secretary's Report

In his absence, Phil had submitted a written report.

Annual return This had been sent in.

Correspondence Northumbria had requested we consider if any events being organised by us could be opened up to the whole of the Region.

Website upgrade There is a YouTube introduction to the new style websites, showing what the site will look like (of interest to all) and then giving a taste of how the Site Administrator might edit it. It can be accessed via the following link then scrolling down to click on the red YouTube button.

<https://siteworks.u3a.org.uk/resources/u3a-siteworks-user-guide/>

After beta testing is completed mid-late June, a further 10 u3as will be asked to set up sites early in the programme. It was agreed that Hartlepool would volunteer to be one of these sites. **Action: Phil**

Events Phil had updated the website with details of the July meeting and September restart. He asked that details of speakers from September onwards be sent to him when available. **Action: Roger**

Succession Revised Trustee details need to be uploaded to the Charity Commission and TAT websites after the June committee meeting and an email sent to northumbriau3a@gmail.com

Phil would continue to look after the website until migration is complete and then hand over to Pauline.

Phil was willing to continue as Beacon Administrator and laptop holder but would be happy to switch to a training/consultancy role if a volunteer emerged. It was decided to put out an appeal to see if anyone was interested.

Action: Roger

6. Group Co-ordinator's report

Pauline reported that the Gardening Group was now up and running and expecting to meet on the 4th Monday of the month. This would be flexible to accommodate events and activities.

The Music Group would be holding an initial meeting on Tuesday.

The deadline for responses indicating preferred times/days from those expressing interest in the Art Appreciation Group was 31st May.

The Cycling Group leader had only just received details of the training course she needed to complete.

Pauline said that the other 3 proposed new groups had fewer numbers and she would concentrate on these once the larger groups had become established.

The Lawns Bowling Group had restarted.

Pauline said that there seemed to be enough interest to set up a second Photography Group and she would advertise this.

She had received notification of 2 outside events of interest which she would post on the boards at the general meeting. She had also received a request that u3a members consider supporting other u3as to make them more viable. Pauline had also received details of the Auckland Project and she intended to take up their invite to see what was on offer.

Quiz and History Groups did not need tables at the AGM and Photography had not yet confirmed. The History Group leader would be away but had emailed Pauline information.

The lunch at Hardwicke Hall Manor Hotel had been a success and an afternoon tea there was planned. Pauline asked about the policy of those

being given a lift offering a £3 contribution to the driver. There is no policy as such; it is voluntary and up to individual drivers as to whether they accept any contribution towards costs.

The Gardening Group enquired about the legality of holding a raffle to raise funds. Cliff said he would look into this. **Action: Cliff**

Pauline had been contacted by a social prescriber regarding the History Group. Pauline had invited her to the AGM so that she could talk to group leaders and she may bring a friend.

Plans were underway to start a second reading group.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Wendy reported that membership currently stood at 110 with 6 renewals outstanding. Of these, she only expected 1 to rejoin. She felt that the delay in restarting a very popular group had contributed to some members' decision not to renew. Although membership stood at 145 before Covid, Wendy felt we were making good progress.

Wendy also noted that when new members expressed an interest in certain groups to her, she would, with their permission, send their contact details to the relevant group leader.

8. Chair's Report

Roger would be at the Central Hub in June to publicise the u3a.

He would attend the South Durham Chairs' meeting on July 7th and hoped to be able to get information on future speakers.

9. AGM Preparations

Roger had sent out all the relevant papers and had received no nominations or resolutions.

He asked that committee members attend from 1.15pm next Friday in order to set up the room.

10. National AGM

This would take place in October and could be accessed via Zoom. Roger was mandated to cast our vote and would inform TAT. **Action: Roger**

11. Any Other Business

Phil had suggested raising the screen used at general meetings on to a table to improve visibility. It was felt, however, that this might be a health and safety hazard.

Cliff had circulated the Barnsley newsletter giving details of activities available in that area. It was agreed that this was something we might consider, but paying to put items in the local newspaper and the cost of organising activities was a barrier. Cliff would investigate if any grants would be available and would also raise the issue at the next Network meeting. **Action: Cliff**

13. Date of next meeting

Friday 30th June 10.30 at Grange Road Methodist Church