



Hartlepool and District u3a
Minutes of the Committee Meeting held at the Central Hub
Friday 24th November 2023 at 10.30 a.m.

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

1. Apologies

Wendy Borthwick and Pauline Williamson.

2. Minutes of Meeting October 27th 2023

Accepted as a true record.

3. Matters arising

Item 6 Pauline had asked Group Leaders to publish their planned activities in advance. Keith was still researching first aid kits and Roger had asked his Creative Writing group if anyone was interested in helping with an autobiography.

Item 11 Cliff was awaiting further information from Drive Smart and similarly, Roger on the suggested Implants speaker. Andrea had sent Pauline contact details for Hart Village Hall.

4. Treasurer's Report

Cliff had previously circulated the November financial statement with the usual expenditure documented and no exceptional items. He forecast a balance of around £3400 by the end of the year which was some £250 more than the equivalent period last year. This was due to receiving a share of the proceeds from folding u3as, rental savings following a change in venues, paying for just 8 speakers during the year and an increase in membership.

Regional News The Northumbria Region Treasurer was finishing his tenure and a replacement was being sought.

National News TAT had published its half-yearly report to the end of September with the financial situation better than expected for a variety of reasons. However, membership had not recovered from the pandemic as quickly as had been hoped (now 375,000) and TAT wanted to increase this to 400,000. TAT had also engaged a legal firm to help them fight the HMRC ruling on Gift Aid. Updated banking guidance had been issued and also guidance on copyright issues.

5. Business Secretary's Report

Wendy had supplied a written report in her absence. The disposal and/or storage of the historical documents was currently on hold.

She had passed on information regarding the Northumbria Region Art Appreciation Network Meeting via Zoom and Irene was able to participate. She had received information about a North Northumbria Regional Quiz which Roger had passed on to the Quiz group leader.

6. Group Co-ordinator's Report

In her absence, Pauline had submitted a written report to Roger. The Music Group had had a discussion about their future and will continue for the foreseeable future but still needs more members, which is also true of the Tuesday Book Club.

33 members have confirmed that they will be attending the Christmas lunch and choices for starters and puddings have been sent to the Marine.

The Gardening Group have finally settled on St. Matthew's Hall for their next meeting and Pauline thanked Cliff for his help with the finer details.

7. Membership Secretary's Report

Andrea said that we now had 116 members, 3 of whom were new. She commented on the good turnout for the last general meeting. She had been expecting to attend a Membership Secretaries' Zoom meeting in November but no invitation had been received.

8. Chair's Report

Roger had established regular contact with the North East Regional Crime Squad and would send out any emails from them. He had also booked them to come back in May for an update.

He would be chairing the next South Durham Chairs' meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Pauline had investigated whether St Matthew's could be used for general meetings but limited parking and storage were major drawbacks along with issues with members travelling by bus.

Keith had circulated documents on risk assessment for the Walking Group. He had updated the Welcome letter for new group members. It was decided that the disclaimer document should be kept by the group leader rather than the Secretary, although any incident reports should still be forwarded to the Secretary. Margaret and Irene had also met to plan risk assessment for the Natural History group.

10. Date of next meeting

Friday 27th January 2024, 10.30 at the Central Hub.