

**Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting  
held on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 2pm Via Video Link**

**Present:** David Pattinson, Margaret Earl, Alistair Sinclair, Kevin Stephens, Wendy Dale, Jane Perona-Wright, Alicia Cresswell, Barry Mellars, Barbara Herring, John Sandiford and Susan Turnbull.

No.	Activity	Action/ person
1	<b>Apologies for absence:</b> No Apologies.	
2	<b>Minutes of meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2021</b> were taken as a true record.	
3	<b>Matters Arising:</b> There were no matters arising.	
4	<p><b>Chair's Report:</b> Wendy said that the AGM is a time to refresh and review. The postal voting papers have all gone out. Barrie has sorted out the electronic voting and Wendy will send out the information for this after this meeting. On the day of the AGM Alistair will start the meeting and hand over to Wendy.</p> <p>With regard to Wendy's speech, she will thank everyone and mention what is happening with groups as well as the updates on the website and Beacon. She asked for suggestions for anything else that might go in. The Chair's annual report will need to be approved so Wendy asked Barrie to add this to the online voting/poll. It was decided that the agenda would be put on the screen until the meeting starts then removed. Wendy asked Margaret to say that the meeting will be recorded when she sends out the invite.</p>	
5	<p><b>Business Secretary's Report:</b> 9 postal voting papers have been returned and they are all positive.</p> <p>There was discussion on the stored equipment. The equipment which is not used now would be passed to Barrie to assess its condition to see if it was worth keeping, with the exception of the Flip Chart Stand and Paper which will go to Wendy for storage.</p>	
6	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> As with previous months, there have been very few transactions passing through the accounts this month so our finances remain largely unchanged.</p> <p>The process to change our bank account signatories has begun. This is now complete for our COIF Deposit account but is still work in progress for our Barclays account. David expects it to be completed over the next 2 weeks.</p>	

	David had been mirroring the accounts in the Beacon system to see how well it works.	
7	<p><b>Programme Secretary's Report:</b> We had the biggest monthly meeting last month with over 90 members attending. DID went well with 81 attendees. There were some problems again with video so in future we should just use stills.</p>	
8	<p><b>Membership Secretary's Report:</b> We currently have 428 members including 9 associate members, 91% of members are on email and 20% of members take the Third Age Trust magazine.</p>	
9	<p><b>Beacon Report:</b> It looks as though Beacon 2 will be a similar system but it may take 5 to 10 years to be completely functional. If Beacon 2 is integrated with the Website then when Convenors put up their programmes they will automatically transfer to the Website, which will save a lot of work. There should be a demonstration system to play with.</p> <p>John raised concerns that by the time we are able to meet again in person some members will not renew. Wendy felt that a lot of work had been done in the background and this is what the recruitment project is about. David added that TAT has issued guidance for how groups should reopen; this is import in relation to insurance.</p> <p>Barrie suggested that we might be back in the Great Hall for meetings by September and he would visit before then to assess how we could allow members access via Zoom as well as in person.</p> <p>Wendy clarified that John was standing down from the committee at the AGM and David would take over Beacon with John working in the background. David thanked John for all his work on Beacon and his support getting David ready to take over. Wendy agreed.</p>	
10	<p><b>Publicity Officer and Website Manager's Report:</b> Kevin asked for photos from groups to put onto the video on the home page of the Website. Both Barrie and Wendy offered to pass him some photos. Kevin would like photos of activities which show groups at work.</p>	
11	<p><b>Newsletter Editor's Report:</b> There are only two quizzes in this month's newsletter and the number will reduce as groups open up.</p>	
12	<p><b>Group Liaison Secretary 1:</b> The Garden Visits group might restart soon but maybe in a different form, perhaps smaller groups with hired transport not shared cars. Two groups are in difficulty, French Conversation has no convenor; Margaret has tried to get one of the group to take on the role but with no success. Also Robert Ford has said he no longer wants to be the convenor for the Watercolour group; one member of the group has said he is mildly interested.</p> <p>David asked if any of the groups could do something for u3a day on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. This could be used to help recruitment.</p> <p>Margaret had looked into the suggestion of Dancing on Zoom but the person who suggested it had changed their mind so it was decided to abandon it for now but could be an idea for the future.</p>	

13	<p><b>Group Liaison Secretary 2:</b> Jane had attended a Regional Groups Coordinator’s meeting which was enlightening. Jane thought that the ‘group swap’ idea could really work out well. She had talked with Kathy Clegg from Prudhoe and as some of our groups had waiting lists they could become viable sharing with Prudhoe. Jane also mentioned that the Science group was thinking of opening up to other non-u3a groups and other visitors. The Regional Groups coordinators said this could not happen because the u3a was by members for members!</p> <p>The idea that the Gentle Exercise group could link up with Age Concern has fallen by the wayside because there wasn’t the interest within the group.</p>	
14	<p><b>Event Secretary's Report:</b> It had been decided that the DIDs would end in March, then someone else came forward so it was decided to carry on until April. Since then two members have volunteered to be interviewed so it will continue in the autumn after a summer break – the two members have been scheduled for October and November.</p> <p>Alistair asked what would happen if we were allowed to meet in person by October? Wendy said we would have to consider whether to have it in person or on Zoom.</p>	
15	<p><b>Regional and Third Age Trust:</b> There have been various Regional Zoom meetings attended by members of the committee.</p> <p>David announced that he is joining the Northumbria Region u3a as a trustee. He felt that Region has a role to play and he would be a good link between them and Tynedale.</p>	
16	<p><b>A.O.B.:</b> This is the last committee meeting for Alistair, Barbara, John and possibly Margaret, and Wendy said it had been great working with everyone. The committee has been very strong which has helped to make Tynedale u3a strong and we will all miss working with them.</p> <p>Alistair said the committee all worked well together and he was grateful to Wendy for taking over when he wanted to step down. John said that it was Alistair who took us out of Trinity Hall which had been a good move.</p> <p>David said that we have kept the Tynedale u3a going financially largely because John, Alistair and Barrie have helped getting payments signed off. Also Barbara has helped greatly with posting him all the information on enrolments etc; the whole thing would have been much more difficult without their help.</p> <p>Wendy has looked into the TAT Trustee induction and their eligibility form; she wanted to know if we had all filled one in. Susan said she would look into that.</p>	ST
17	<p><b>Date and time for next meeting:</b> Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 2pm. Via video link.</p>	

Meeting ended at 15:33.

Signed: *W Dale*

Dated: 31.03.21