

**Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 24th February 2022 at Hexham Golf Club and on Zoom**

Present: Wendy Dale, Alicia Cresswell, Barrie Mellars, John Dark, Colin Argent and Susan Turnbull with David Pattinson and Kevin Stephens on Zoom.

No.	Activity	Action/ person
1	Welcome and Apologies: There were no apologies.	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 20 th January 2022 were accepted as a true record.	
3	Matters Arising: John has been unable to research the copyright issue but will do so for the April meeting.	
4	<p>Chair's Report: AGM – No motions have been received. There needs to be an on-line poll for voting for the nominations and Account Examiner which Barrie will organise.</p> <p>There was discussion on what to do about the gaps in the committee i.e. Publicity Officer and Events Secretary. It was agreed face to face conversation was best and Colin will approach some new members.</p> <p>Wendy ran through the format of the AGM. The meeting shouldn't take long, the winners of the Fast Fiction will be read out and then there will be an opportunity for socialising with tea and cakes.</p>	BM
5	<p>Business Secretary's Report: All information received has been distributed.</p> <p>Susan asked if a u3a mailing which covered tutorials by Specsavers should be sent to the members. It was decided that the best place for this was in the newsletter so Alicia will include it.</p>	AC
6	<p>Treasurer's Report: We have had very few transactions this year to date so nothing of note to report as yet.</p> <p>The accounts for 2021 will be presented to the AGM next week and once they are accepted he will complete the annual submissions to the Charity Commission and commence the Gift Aid claim process for the financial year.</p> <p>The Third Age Trust is increasing the annual cost of delivery of the Third Age Matters magazine (TAM) from £3.10 to £3.35 from April 1st so his recommendation is to start to</p>	

	<p>levy this increased delivery cost for all those new and renewing members wishing to receive the TAM magazine from Tuesday 1st March 2022, the date of the AGM. As TAM is published 5 times a year (February, April, June, September and November) the next delivery will be in April at the higher delivery cost. This means that new and renewing members wishing to receive TAM will pay a £17.35 subscription from next Tuesday. Changes are needed to the membership page of the website (and associated application and renewal forms), and the increase should be published in the next Newsletter to reflect this increased delivery cost. David could see the confusion coming down the line in September if Standing Orders aren't amended and we chase members for the additional £0.25 so maybe a reminder in the last Newsletter ahead of renewal might be a good idea, too. The overall cost of this increase to Tynedale u3a in the current financial year will be around £25.</p> <p>David reminded the committee that he will shortly be starting his last year as treasurer. David started mid year which he found beneficial, as he could shadow the existing treasurer before he took over the role; he suggested that would be a good way for the next treasurer to start.</p>	
7	<p>Programme Secretary's Report: At the last monthly meeting there were 43 members in the hall and 28 members on Zoom, and Barrie received good feedback from the meeting. Speakers have been booked up to the end of the year.</p> <p>DID continues to bring in more than 50 members each month. Wendy told us that Mike Worthington had said that as it had been going for two years, did the committee feel it should continue? It was felt to be popular and after discussion it was decided to start again in October and review the situation in December. Wendy would ask Mike to do an article for the newsletter asking for castaway volunteers.</p> <p>There was discussion about whether to have the coffee and tea at the beginning or end of the future monthly meetings. Barrie pointed out that the speakers had been told that the meetings started at 2pm and they would be speaking shortly afterwards so it wasn't a good idea to have the coffee and tea at 2pm as before. It was decided to have them at 1:45pm with the meeting starting at 2pm as usual.</p>	WD
8	<p>Membership Secretary's Report: At the last meeting, following the drive to get people to renew, we had precisely 400 members. We are now, as of 24/02/22, up to 413. This can be broken down as 8 Associate, 305 Individual and 100 TAM. In terms of new memberships, there has been an increase, with 4 in January and already 10 in February, with 2 more to come in the next few days. There is now a fuller welcome letter to new members, posted out with the membership cards. John asked for more advertising posters to send out with the letters and Kevin said he would send him some.</p> <p>There will be a number of changes after the AGM on March 1st</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All the forms will change to 21-22, even though the membership year runs from September. 2. The new cost of TAM - £17.35 – will be reflected on the forms. 3. Revised online renewal form – with slightly more detail. 4. Online form for new membership applications. There will also be a question about how the applicant heard about the u3a. 5. Renewal form downloadable as a word document accessible from the website – the current form is a pdf which needs to be printed. 	KS

	<p>David reminded us that the questionnaire needs to be sent to new members to see how they found out about the u3a, so we can evaluate our publicity in terms of value for money.</p>	
9	<p>Publicity Officer and Website Manager's Report: Kevin had circulated the draft advert before the meeting and asked for feedback. It was thought that there may be some confusion about the two meetings so the information about the monthly meeting should contain the word 'monthly'. The photo was thought to be too physical rather than suggesting 'community spirit' so Kevin will change it to the photo he has of walkers. It was decided to go ahead with the 4 adverts (in the Courant) to get the reduced rate. The coffee morning dates were discussed but Wendy suggested they should be sorted outside the meeting by Wendy, Kevin and Susan.</p> <p>Kevin, again, stressed that he didn't have many suitable photos for adverts and it was felt that someone could visit groups specially to take photos.</p> <p>Wendy thanked Kevin for all the work he had done during his term on the committee which was heartily agreed by the rest of the group. Kevin said that if someone couldn't be found to take over the advertising then he would be happy to produce the adverts and get them into the Courant but didn't want to come to the committee meetings.</p>	<p>WD KS ST</p>
10	<p>Newsletter Editor's Report: Alicia said she had been approached by two members who wanted to put something into the newsletter that didn't concern groups and Alicia wanted guidance from the committee. One was about metal detecting and another about a community garden. After discussion it was decided that if the article could lead to a new group being formed then that would be appropriate.</p> <p>Alicia said she might be away when the next newsletter is to go out and asked for help with sending out the paper copies – Barrie, John and Susan agreed to help.</p>	
11	<p>Group Liaison Secretary's Report: Colin was concerned that he had only 25 convenors who had accepted the invitation to the convenors' lunch so we might not get the preferential rate given to us by the Mart. Barrie felt that those who hadn't replied should be chased and was confident there would be more takers. Wendy agreed this was a good idea to chase up those who hadn't replied after 28th February.</p> <p>Colin brought up the difficulties convenor's had finding suitable venues. Some groups wanted venues with projection facilities which was often too expensive for smaller groups. Colin wondered if we should go back to a block booking system which we had in Trinity Hall and charge groups a unit rate per head just so people would have computer and projection facilities, and internet access laid on. After much discussion Colin said he would research the scale of the problem.</p> <p>David said that all groups had to be self financing and expressed reservations about effectively subsidising some groups and not others.</p> <p>Colin had been approached by NCBA who wanted to talk to us about providing opportunities for the blind and partially sighted. It was agreed Colin would invite them to one of our committee meetings.</p> <p>Colin suggested floating the idea of the open day at the AGM as well as the convenors'</p>	<p>WD</p> <p>CA</p> <p>CA</p>

	lunch.	
12	Regional and Third Age Trust: There was nothing to report.	
13	A.O.B.: Barrie asked if we were going to renew our Zoom licence and it was agreed we were. David asked if Lesley Parsons was joining us next month and it was agreed that Susan would send her the Trustee form and the dates of the committee meetings. Wendy will pass on Lesley's contact details to Susan.	ST WD
14	Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 2pm on 24 th March 2022 at Hexham Golf Club.	

Meeting ended at 16:20



Signed:

Dated: 7.04.22