

**Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 22nd September 2022 at Hexham Golf Club**

Present: Wendy Dale, Alicia Cresswell, Barrie Mellars, John Dark, David Pattinson, Lesley Parsons, Sally Hewitt and Susan Turnbull

No.	Activity	Action/ person
1	Welcome and Apologies: Apologies were received from Colin Argent.	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 28 th July 2022 were accepted as a true record.	
3	<p>Matters Arising: The committee meeting which was scheduled for September 6th (after the monthly meeting) didn't take place because we didn't have quorum.</p> <p>Item 7. Barrie said a venue had been identified for the event with Michael Bentley, that would allow it to be open to all but he was waiting for Michael to get back to them.</p> <p>Item 12. Lesley has continued to try to get access to the twitter account without success but will keep trying.</p>	LP
4	<p>Chair's Report: Sarah has sadly resigned as Events Secretary due to personal problems.</p> <p>Open Day – Everything seems to be organised. Of the five committee members who are not on stalls John will be in the anti-room with membership forms and will speak to anyone wanting to join and Barrie will be helping with technical issues. Wendy, Sally and Lesley will keep a tally of who enters, find out if they are members and how they heard about the event. Sally has advertised the event in the Courant this week, on FB and with posters around the town.</p> <p>Vacancies – for Events Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Wendy only has one year to go. Barrie was asked if he was lining up to be the Chair and he said he wasn't due to other commitments; therefore we would need another Vice Chair for when Wendy steps down. Wendy said she hoped other committee members would stay on. It was suggested that we could mention that we wanted new blood on the committee, at the Open Day. There needs to be something in the newsletter.</p> <p>T.A.T. AGM – The amendment that we seconded was not approved but there are other u3as who are trying to change the wording of T.A.T.'s amendment. There is a Zoom meeting tonight for u3as who are against the amendment which Wendy will attend. Wendy will attend the AGM and vote against the amendment.</p> <p>Mike Forster has sent emails to committee members critical of the committee, raising</p>	WD WD

	<p>issues that were raised at the meeting in November when he attended. He feels the committee have a vested interest in using the Abbey and feels the Mart would be a better venue for monthly meetings. He also feels there are not enough opportunities to socialise. The committee were reminded why the Abbey was preferred over the Mart including the lack of sound system and its distance from the centre of Hexham.</p> <p>David suggested we have a 'meet and greet' (buddy) service for new members. John suggested he add something to the introductory email asking for new members to approach him when they first arrive. Wendy said we would look into this.</p> <p>There is a Community Initiative for newcomers to Hexham who wanted someone from the u3a to speak to them and Wendy has agreed to do this.</p> <p>Someone from Northumbria University wanted to do some research regarding health and social care for those who are pre-frail. Wendy decided not to support this.</p>	<p>WD</p> <p>WD</p>
5	<p>Business Secretary's Report: All information received has been distributed.</p> <p>Susan brought up the CLA licence which David has bought. He had asked who was to hold the licence (which Susan agreed to do) but suggested it should be on the website; the committee agreed with this and that the information should be circulated to convenors via Colin. Susan to circulate to all committee members. David also said the document needed to be spruced up to reflect Tynedale which Susan offered to do.</p>	<p>CA</p> <p>ST</p> <p>ST</p>
6	<p>Treasurer's Report: Our subscription income has started to increase to reflect those members who have renewed their membership online. There have been 150 members who have renewed online to date. John Dark also has many cheques to pass on which are not yet reflected in the accounts.</p> <p>Our other income is made up from Gift Aid and the contribution of £150 from the T.A.T. towards our Open Day.</p> <p>As of 1st August this year, we are covered for the CLA copyright licence provided by the Third Age Trust allowing limited reproduction of materials for groups.</p> <p>With a discussion on the future of Zoom at our Monthly meetings on the agenda, it might be helpful to know that we have spent £180.96 on capital equipment to support Zoom at monthly meetings in the last year as well as the £143.88 Zoom annual Pro licence (totalling £324.84 in the last 12 months).</p> <p>An indication of our gradual return to some form of normality can be seen in the level of our expenses to date this year. It is now larger than the Other Expenses for the whole of 2021. However, it remains some 15% lower than the Other Expenses that we had incurred by September in 2019, before the pandemic.</p> <p>We are coming up to the budget season so David asked committee members to bring to the October meeting any likely expenditure for next year, so he can produce a budget.</p>	
7	<p>Programme Secretary's Report: There was a good turnout at the last monthly meeting; the best since Covid. Barrie has speakers until next April apart from February. Speakers are asking a higher fee and Barrie was reminded he could authorise a fee of up to £100 without coming to the committee.</p>	

	<p>Barrie suggested calling an end to having Zoom at monthly meetings because it has never really worked well, the speakers don't like it and it doesn't encourage members to come and socialise in person. It was thought that attendance of monthly meetings over Zoom in the winter might be very attractive to some members so, after much discussion, it was decided (7 to 1) to carry on with Zoom until March next year when the position could be reassessed.</p>	
8	<p>Membership Secretary's Report: There were 11 new members in August and a further 3 in September. Notable there are 5 couples in these 14 new members. There is clearly scope for a new members coffee morning in the not too distant future.</p> <p>Prompted, presumably by the request for renewal, there have been 13 resignations, and I've been told of a single recent death. Reasons for resignation included moving away, poor mobility, other commitments and there being no groups of interest.</p> <p>As of September 21st, there had been 244 renewals, well over half the membership. There are 176 completed online forms, but this brings data from only 165 members. A number of forms were completed twice (3 times in one case), one was blank and one from someone who's name means nothing. 25 people ticked address unchanged, and then put in the contact details. 5 are marked as change of address, but only 4 completed. Sundry other errors include writing "Same" as the name, writing "Agree" for the second signature where you signify agreement with the terms and conditions. Three people told me their date of birth for the date of completion of the form. In a number of cases it seems one half of a couple completed the form and assumed it was OK for both, as there is payment for both. 19 have completed a form but there has been no payment – they will need reminders. 40 people completed BACS transfer with neither a paper nor an online form; but most have included their membership number as a reference, so John could just mark them as renewed. There have been, so far, 33 paper forms, mainly with an attached cheque. There were 62 cheques, which come with anything from a paper renewal form, to a covering letter, an attached Post-it or down to just a cheque in an envelope.</p> <p>We now have 445 Current Members, broken down by: Associate 10 (2%), Individual 325 (73%), and Individual TAM 110 (25%). In January of this year, we had just 400 Current Members, so despite the recent cluster of resignations, the increase over the year is better than 10%. In conclusion, the new form has been a success, a smaller number use the paper form but a lot of people renew with neither.</p> <p>John will put a reminder article in the newsletter and speak to Wendy after the meeting about a date for another Coffee Morning.</p>	JD
9	<p>Publicity Officer's Report: There was a question about security on FB so Sally has now made changes so people need to be accepted before they can post.</p> <p>Sally has joined local FB groups so she can post things about the U3a. Someone from Transition Tynedale has contacted Sally to talk about ways to work together. Sally will talk with her either at the Open Day or next week.</p> <p>Sally and Alicia will take photos at the Open Day.</p>	SH SH AC
10	<p>Newsletter Editor's Report: Alicia has enough content for this month's newsletter.</p> <p>Haltwhistle walking group have contacted Alicia to tell her that they are doing a taster session in October which is to try to get people walking again after Covid. Alicia agreed</p>	AC

	<p>to put something in the newsletter and it was suggested we have something on FB as well.</p> <p>Alicia said she won't continue to be newsletter editor after her three year stint. She will be away for 6 weeks in April next year and won't be able to help at that time. Alicia has identified someone who might take over so she will make contact.</p>	AC
11	Group Liaison Secretary's Report: Colin wasn't able to be present.	
12	<p>Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report: Lesley has changed a couple of things on the website 'events' to 'what's on' and 'welcome' to 'about us' to make it a little less formal.</p> <p>Beacon has introduced new terms and conditions which (after assessing) seemed to be that if we no longer used Beacon there would be no refund.</p> <p>Lesley asked if we were up to date on our Data Protection and Privacy policies and did we have a Legitimate Interest Assessment? She felt that was something we should look into at some stage.</p>	
13	<p>Events Secretary's Report: Wendy said that there have been 2 residential trips and some other events so things are happening of a social nature. The Garden Visiting group said that they thought the whole of the u3a should be included in a garden visit involving a coach which the two convenors were happy to organise.</p> <p>Wendy asked about the Charity Bridge event which Susan described and she mentioned the Bridge Online course that was being organised by Ann Rooke. Susan to give Ann's contact details to Lesley so she can find the course information to put on the website.</p> <p>Wendy asked Barrie to run a quiz again. Barrie said he was happy to do this and had one ready and waiting which he couldn't run because of Covid. It was very successful last time. Previously it was in the Masonic Hall so Barrie will check availability.</p> <p>DID will start again in October.</p>	ST BM
14	<p>Regional and Third Age Trust: Nationally there is the Hadrian's Wall Event which is scheduled to be on 10th May 2023. This could be an opportunity for publicity.</p> <p>David and Sally are going to the recruitment session next Friday.</p>	DP SH
15	<p>A.O.B.: Barrie asked if we were still happy to have our committee meetings at the Golf Club because he had to book the room – we agreed we would.</p> <p>David reminded us that it was Tynedale u3as 40th anniversary next year and we must think about how to celebrate it as it needs to be marked in some way. Sally said we could see what other u3as are doing.</p>	BM
16	<p>Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 27th October 2022 at 2pm.</p>	

Meeting ended at 16:00

Signed:



Dated: 29.10.2022