

**Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 23rd March 2023 at Hexham Golf Club**

Present: Wendy Dale, Barrie Mellars, Colin Argent, John Dark, Lesley Parsons, Sally Hewitt, Ann Atkinson, Tim O'Brien, Susan Turnbull and Barbara Redhead

No.	Activity	Action/ person
1	Welcome and Apologies: No apologies.	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 23 rd February 2023 were accepted as a true record.	
3	Matters Arising: Wendy stated that there were 2 policies not on the website; Safeguarding and Equality and Diversity. Barrie said the changes were in hand. Wendy queried whether we had a privacy policy. Lesley stated that we should have a legitimate interest statement and that she would look at the Third Age Trust website to see if we could use one from there.	BM LP
4	Chair's Report: AGM – Wendy stated that she was aware of tensions and strengths of feeling in relation to the motion that was put forward at the AGM and raised issues in relation to running the AGM effectively in future. Discussion took place and it was decided that there was a need to review the constitution and procedures. 40 th Anniversary – A paper had been sent out to committee members with a number of options to consider, holding the event at the Mart or the Winter Gardens. Following discussion it was agreed to go with the Mart and ask members to contribute £5 to the afternoon tea. Colin raised an additional issue regarding the date of the event on the 17 th June. The Kielder Rally was being held that weekend and support vehicles would be based at the Mart. It was felt that there was a need to consider an alternative date. Colin would go back to the Mart and check what Saturday dates were available in June, July and August.	WD CA
5	Business Secretary's Report: Ann has distributed a mailing from the Third Age Trust to committee members. In future Third Age Trust would send two mailings a month at the middle and end of the month. Anything urgent would be sent separately when needed. Ann stated that she would send on any information received to appropriate committee members.	AA
6	Treasurer's Report: Barbara produced accounts for the month and asked whether events should be kept separate from groups and individual events tracked. This was agreed. It was also agreed to keep hall hire separate from refreshments. Everyone was happy with the way monthly accounts were presented.	BR
7	Continuation of Zoom at monthly meetings: Colin put forward the view that we should stop using Zoom for monthly meetings, review in terms of the impact and bring together at a workshop, a group with fresh ideas and knowledge of better systems to decide a way forward. It was recognised that the criteria for using Zoom had changed. In two months the Zoom license was up for renewal but it was recognised that the cost of this was	CA

	<p>minimal. Discussion took place and issues raised in relation to people being excluded, the pressure on Barrie to currently manage the meetings and capacity at the Great Hall. It was agreed that there was a need for a group to look at the different options and be able to provide a professional service to members. A new system would be required that all can deal with, something approaching a plug and play system. It was agreed to end Zoom at the next monthly meeting, review and get expert advice bringing a group together to decide the way forward.</p>	
8	<p>Programme Secretary's Report: Barrie reported that next month's speaker was Jo Bath, a professional speaker. He has bookings for speakers until November.</p>	
9	<p>Membership Secretary's Report: John reported that we are still gaining new members, we currently have 470. 90% of new members are using the online form to join. The paper form and online form will need changing as a result of the cost increasing to £17.60. Also it is currently a two person form and needs to revert to a form for a single person. John suggested adding to the form that groups you attend may share your email address within the group and to let them know if you did not want this. Wendy stated that group convenors should ask this as it was in their manual. It was agreed to add this to the form.</p> <p>The date of the next coffee morning for new members is 30th March at 10.30am and the plan is to hold them two monthly. Assistance at the event on the 30th March was requested.</p>	JD
10	<p>Publicity Officer's Report: Sally stated that there are now 115 members on Facebook. She has been distributing posters and posting and sharing on Facebook.</p>	
11	<p>Newsletter Editor's Report: Tim stated that he was pleased with the response for information for the newsletter and this was coming together. He was planning to put more photos in the newsletter to show the social side of the organisation. He also planned to increase the font of the newsletter as felt it was currently too small. Everyone was happy to support this. He was also promoting the 40th anniversary by inserting the logo on newsletter envelopes to those receiving paper copies and in the newsletter.</p>	TB
12	<p>Group Liaison Secretary's Report: Colin stated that they were struggling to get the Wine Appreciation group to viable numbers and also trying to get another French discussion group underway. Book groups wanted to start another group.</p>	
13	<p>Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report: Lesley stated that she was the only Beacon administrator with full privileges and had therefore asked John to have full privileges too which he had agreed. Work is proceeding on Word Press on the website and the present system will be available to the end of next year. Lesley asked for ideas for a title, no more than 12 characters, to encourage people to look at national information on the website.</p>	All
14	<p>Events Secretary's Report: John reported that the Sage visit had been very successful and informative. There had been 5 reserves so worth arranging another visit in the Autumn. Susan has written a piece for the newsletter.</p> <p>There are 30 booked for the Quiz night and 16 have paid.</p> <p>Hadrian's Wall Festival – Sally has been keeping in touch with the Publicity Office for the event and had sent a list of contacts. The walk is going ahead in the programme and she has asked that details go out to all delegates electronically but has not had a reply. She has a back marker for the walk but not sure if they are on the event list. Prudhoe are also putting on a walk from Housesteads but may not be part of the programme.</p> <p>Sculpture Park visit – about 40 planning to visit and 27 paid.</p> <p>Convenors lunch – please email Colin asap to let him know whether or not you are able to</p>	All

	attend.	
15	Regional and Third Age Trust: Wendy stated that the Regional Quiz would most likely be held in June or July at Sunnyside Social Club in the afternoon. Wendy had said we might be able to send two teams of four and had asked that they avoid the first Tuesday in the month.	
16	Environment Policy: It was felt that it was difficult to make it Tynedale u3a specific. We want to ensure that we do not exacerbate environmental problems and it was suggested that we ask members how we could improve our environmental impact. The document is very wordy and not written in a way you can easily adopt. It was agreed we would have one and Barbara agreed to review it.	BR
17	A.O.B: None	
18	Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 27th April 2023 at 2pm.	

Meeting ended at 15.45

Signed:

Dated: