

**Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting  
held on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2023 at Hexham Golf Club**

**Present:** Wendy Dale, John Dark, Colin Argent, Sally Hewitt, Margaret Earl and Susan Turnbull

No.	Activity	Action/ person
1	<p><b>Welcome and Apologies:</b> Apologies were received from Barrie Mellars, Tim O’Brien, Barbara Redhead, Lesley Parsons and Ann Atkinson.</p> <p>Wendy told the committee that Barbara Redhead would be leaving the committee at the end of September and that Susan has agreed to take on the treasurer role. Susan was asked if she needed an assistant and she said yes.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of meeting</b> held on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2023 were accepted as a true record.</p>	
3	<p><b>Matters Arising:</b> There were no matters arising.</p>	
4	<p><b>Chair's Report:</b>  <u>40<sup>th</sup> anniversary</u> – 112 had booked and 92 attended of the 20 that didn’t show 8 had not paid. There were apologies from 2 people. 2 people who attended were from another u3a. Wendy has received many messages of thanks from members and she thanked the committee for all the effort they had put into making the occasion a success, especially Sally, Colin and Margaret. The committee felt that the day went very well and the slide show was much appreciated. Unfortunately, a lot of people said that the music, whilst very good, was too loud, which made it difficult to hold a conversation. It was agreed that the band should have their expenses paid. Colin will arrange with the band. Susan suggested that next time we could have one musician, perhaps playing a guitar. Also sitting down at a table meant that there was limited opportunity to circulate and mix with other members. It was agreed that the food was very good and the staff should have a tip. Wendy to arrange to pay a service charge of £100 and claim it back.</p> <p>Andrew Freckingham from Whitley Bay came with his wife, who weren’t expected; he gave impressive feedback.</p> <p><u>u3a week</u> – it was decided that we would not do anything during the week as we had just had our anniversary and it would be difficult to organise something in the time scale. Sally would seek to get an article in the Courant and also put it on Facebook.</p> <p><u>Committee posts</u>  Wendy said that she would be including in the newsletter that Barbara was leaving, and that Susan was taking on the role but requires an assistant. In September we will be looking at roles as we know we need to find a programme secretary.</p>	<p>CA</p> <p>WD</p> <p>SH</p> <p>WD</p>

5	<p><b>Business Secretary's Report:</b> Ann has distributed the Northumbria region u3a newsletter and updates from the Third Age Trust.</p>	
6	<p><b>Treasurer's Report:</b> Barbara provided the accounts sheet to end June 2023. She has changed the format slightly so that there is a line called Main Account Income in bold and a line called Main Account Expenditure in bold. These two lines are the cumulative totals which, at the end of the financial year, will go on the Charities commission form.</p> <p>The new financial policy was shared, discussed and agreed with a few amendments (which Susan will make) and pass to Wendy and Barbara for approval.</p> <p>Groups finances proposal was discussed. The current system of managing groups with paid venues is cumbersome. Within the u3a, groups should be self-directed, self-supporting and trusted to organize themselves for their own learning. Therefore from 01.09.2023 all groups with paid-for venues will be given the choice of either paying for the venue for a year and putting the money into the u3a Barclays account thus the treasurer will then pay the groups monthly bills from these monies OR collecting the money and paying the venues directly without involving the treasurer. The group liaison secretary and assistant treasurer would work with each group to transfer any current arrangements including the paying of venues from any monies held centrally, until these are exhausted. Colin will consult with convenors and see what they want to do.</p> <p>CCLA - these funds cause further work for the treasurer and committee to meet financial regulations, thus it is proposed that the CCLA account is closed and funds transferred to Barclays into a deposit/savings account set up alongside the current account.</p> <p>The committee, after full discussion, have agreed unanimously to instruct the treasurer, assistant treasurer and chairperson to close the CCLA account with immediate effect and transfer all funds into the Tynedale u3a business account (for further transference to the new deposit/savings account) in Hexham, Northumberland.</p>	<p>CA</p> <p>BR</p>
7	<p><b>Programme Secretary's Report:</b> There were 91 members at the last meeting. We now have speakers booked up to and including April 2024.</p> <p>Barrie has downloaded and opened the TAT Speaker list (not easy with an encrypted file!) and has identified 5 more possible speakers. He will contact the appropriate u3as who have had presentations from them before approaching the speakers.</p> <p>Quiz Night: Barrie has booked Hexham Golf Club for Tuesday October 10th at 7pm. Cost is likely to be slightly higher than last year but he expects it to be in the region of £12.50pp including the supper. It was agreed that the fee charged to members should also cover the cost of prizes.</p> <p>There continues to be significant interest amongst Tynedale u3a members in the video recording of the monthly meetings (32 viewing in the first 24 hours this month).</p> <p>Barrie has identified a camera/sound system which is better suited to our recording needs. It does not require connection to a laptop and would be easy to operate on a fixed tripod. Minimal training will be required. Purchase of this would enable security of recording continuity if he is unavailable or it is not appropriate for him to operate the system. The purchase was agreed by the committee.</p>	<p>BM</p> <p>BM</p>

8	<p><b>Membership Secretary's Report:</b> We now have 498 members which includes 135 new members since 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022. Members will be reminded that it will be renewal time in the September newsletter and everyone will get an acknowledgement when they have paid.</p> <p>It was agreed that the next coffee morning would be held in the autumn, perhaps October.</p>	
9	<p><b>Publicity Officer's Report:</b> All committee members now have labels; some would like lanyards but u3a lanyards are out of stock at the moment.</p> <p>Wendy suggested that Sally pass on the Hexham TV interview to the National PR representative. Wendy also suggested that Sally check out our entry in the 'Blue Book'.</p>	SH SH
10	<p><b>Newsletter Editor's Report:</b> There were interesting and positive responses to the 'Jokes section' inserted at the last minute to fill space in the June newsletter. Tim had a few emails asking for more, but he will resist the temptation.</p> <p>Tim will be contacting all members early in August reminding them of the deadline for the September newsletter and advising them that the topic for the 5th September monthly meeting will be 'Tynedale Through Maps' presented by Paul Nash.</p> <p>Hopefully the September newsletter will have enough text and photos to give good coverage of the 40th Anniversary Birthday celebration. This will not only record the event for our successors in forty years time, but will engage those who were unable to attend.</p>	
11	<p><b>Group Liaison Secretary's Report:</b> Steve Rozario has booked Ian Jackson for a talk (which will be open to all of the u3a) for 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Hexham Golf Club.</p> <p>Colin has a website update session for convenors arranged with Lesley for tomorrow morning.</p> <p>Colin has produced a revised briefing note for convenors, on the updated policy documents, which he will send out to convenors end of August; so if anyone wanted to comment, there would be time to do so.</p>	
12	<p><b>Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:</b> Lesley has agreed to trial the new version of Beacon.</p>	
13	<p><b>Events Secretary's Report:</b> The Edinburgh trip is going next week and there are some minor details to sort out. Margaret asked about a tip for the driver and it was decided to give a tip from the excess money collected. The trip to Skipton is full and paid for but the Hawes and Wensleydale Creamery hasn't many takers as yet. The Recycle visit went well.</p>	
14	<p><b>Tynedale u3a records at Woodhorn:</b> Colin has looked at u3a records at Woodhorn for historic information but there are only 4 boxes and they are a 'jumbled mess'. Colin asked if it was important to keep these records and if so, they need to be organised. Colin and Wendy agreed to visit and have another look at them.</p>	CA WD
15	<p><b>Regional and Third Age Trust:</b> There was nothing to report. No one had attended the meeting in Stannington.</p>	

16	<b>A.O.B.:</b> There was no other business.	
17	<b>Date and time for next meeting:</b> Thursday September 21 <sup>st</sup> 2023 at 2pm.	

Meeting ended at 15:55

**Signed:**

**Dated:**