

Meeting of the Whitley Bay u3a  
held Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Present:

Ian Bedwell (Chair) IB	Yvonne Bedwell YB	Dorothy Garman DG
Dave Haddock DH	Kath MacEachen KMac	Oonagh Mallon OM
Peggy Robertson PR	Terry Annan TA	Susan Greaves SG
Helen Perfect HP	Kath Reed KR	Andrew Freckingham AF
Michele Palmer MP		

Quorum: Y

In attendance: -

Procedural		
Item No		Action
1	<p><b>Apologies for absence:</b> The committee consented to apologies for absence for the following committee members: None</p> <p><b>Apologies were not received from:</b></p> <p><b>Declaration of interest:</b> None</p> <p><b>AOB notifications to the Chair:</b> None</p>	
2	<p><b>Approval of minutes</b> For approval - minutes from meeting on 3.7.2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OM, SG and MP clarified they will share responsibilities for Business Secretary role</li> </ul>	Approved
3	<b>Matters arising not on the agenda</b> None	
For discussion and agreement		
4	<p><b>Correspondence</b> A request for a volunteer to represent u3a at a regional and national level. Sandy Rickerby is standing down after many years representing our interests.</p>	IB processed the nomination for Jean Cubbin
5	<p><b>Business Secretary's Report</b> Nothing to report</p>	

6	<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>Written report was received.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discussion of group leaders holding cash temporarily. KR proposed grp leaders always have a 'buddy' a u3a member who is also aware of the cash flow and system run by group leader. Cash, cheques and BACS are all used. There was not unanimous agreement which suited all groups. Decision to maintain current systems and explore other solutions that would be proportionate and could meet need.</li> <li>-As previously reported no requirement to pay Regional subs this year as NE Region already had sufficient funds. They have also paid Whitley Bay u3a a one-off payment of £49.43</li> <li>- Discussion of group leader who has still not paid membership fee</li> <li>- 178 members paid by BACS, 110 paid by cheque and rest in cash.</li> <li>- Gluten free refreshments requested by a member. HP suggested caterers (Linskill) should be able to provide diet related options at no extra cost to u3a</li> </ul>	<p>To re-visit issue</p> <p>KR &amp; IB to resolve.</p> <p>KR to confirm with Linskill</p>
7	<p><b>Membership Secretary's Report</b></p> <p>Written Report from PR received.</p> <p>356 members and 38 lapsed memberships, 3 deceased or resigned. 5 newcomers to attend monthly mtg on 16<sup>th</sup> August at Linskill</p>	
8	<p><b>Group Coordinators' Report</b></p> <p>Coordinators reported 3 new groups started with leaders and venues secured by KMac and DG – 'Short Walks' 'Discussion of a set Topic' and 'Book Grp 2'</p> <p>The proposed cycling group met. Potential members have a disparity in expectation of the purpose (leisure cycling or lengthy distance aim) and levels of cycling proficiency. Proposed that the group may split into 2 groups.</p> <p>There is still a request for volunteer leaders to run Italian, Spanish French3 and Calligraphy.</p> <p>After leading a group for a lengthy period Val McGrath is stepping down. Discussion of how to acknowledge sterling work of group leaders without too much expenditure.</p>	<p>Thanks at monthly meetings</p>
9	<p><b>Co-opted member AF report</b></p> <p>11 regions in u3a nationally. 48 u3a in North East region</p> <p>u3a national membership is down 60,000 but Whitley Bay u3a is thriving and has increased membership following the pandemic.</p> <p>AF reported national team are rolling out 'shared learning projects' so area groups can share best practice. He was impressed how far some groups go to support their group leaders and recounted a 'group leader festival' takes place in one area. Committee felt we support group leaders well currently. Unsure that a social for group leaders would be well attended. All areas universally struggle with recruiting to Committees and with succession planning.</p>	

Other information or business		
10	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In May 2024, KR to relinquish responsibility for booking/supporting the speakers for the monthly meetings. Volunteer needed to shadow KR in order to take over eventually. AF proposed a time-limited subgroup to investigate, research issue and feed back to committee.</li> <li>2. Committee thanked PR for organising the distribution of cards and yellow booklet.</li> <li>3. 8 committee members plus 4 group leaders booked for CPR/Defibrillator session.</li> <li>4. Request for members over 65yrs to become participants in a PhD research project. Individuals to contact researcher.</li> <li>5. Discussion of honorary membership age which is currently at 90yrs.</li> <li>6. AF reminded committee it is u3a week 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September.</li> </ol>	<p>AF, KR offered. IB to ask at monthly mtg for volunteers.</p> <p>IB to offer to general membership.</p> <p>Remains at 90yrs</p>
11	<p><b>Confidential items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None</li> </ul>	
12	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023 12pm St Andrew's UR Church, Eastfield Ave, Monkseaton, NE25 8LU</p> <p><b>Meeting closed:</b> 2.10pm</p>	