

Minutes of Executive Committee Meeting
6th June 2022

Attendees: Derek Reynolds, Vicky Landles, Dorothy Garman, Dorothy Chapman, Dave Haddock, Peggy Robertson

Apologies for absence: Anne Hemy, Anne Paterson, Kath MacEachen, Kath Reed, Yvonne and Ian Bedwell

DR opened the meeting at 12:00.

Previous minutes were accepted by all members present.

Co-opted members Dorothy Chapman and Dave Haddock were proposed by VL and seconded by DG.

Matters arising:

The signatories on the bank account will be changed at the next meeting. YB will be looking into changing banks due to recurring issues with the current one.

Any changes to the group information leaflet (membership pack) should go to DC who will make amendments.

Correspondence:

PA stood down as leader of Bookworms group.

The Ukulele group is on hold until September.

During the AGM, a member enquired about our membership in Regional i.e., whether or not to stay. IB had previously voiced his desire to gradually phase himself into the role of Business Secretary and as liaison to both Regional/National.

We received a letter from the finance department confirming receipt and payment of our Annual Return.

Other venues for groups are being sought for group meetings. Whitley Bay Sporting Club and Tynemouth Motor Club are among the possibilities.

A letter was received from Mike Martin who runs the computer training groups. He has stated that this is run privately and not part of the u3a, hence

should not be listed on the programme. However, u3a members are welcome to join therefore the group will be promoted on our website. Meetings are held at Low Lights in North Shields with a fee of £4.00 paid directly to the venue.

There was a discussion about a possible candidate with IT skills to help the Trust develop a digital strategy. We are always looking for help with I.T skills

Anne Hemy has asked for a £50 grant for her dance/exercise group to be used towards the room rental. Since Tynemouth Scout hut requires an upfront payment, this will help tide them over until funds are more secure. After discussion, the grant was approved as a loan by DH and seconded by DG.

Treasurer's report:

VL reported that after payments made for Beacon, subscriptions and TAM magazine, the balance as of the end of May was £9,731.49.

Figures for the cost of the afternoon tea is £1,612, including the £125 rental of the hall. Discussing the numbers, it was agreed that we draw the line at 98 attendees.

Membership Secretary's report:

Our current membership figure is 339.

Group Coordinator's report:

DG reported that for the next new members meeting, 42 new members will be invited. Past experience shows that not everyone will attend, though. The group list in the membership pack will be updated.

Any other business:

Ray Taylor has requested permission that we should be allowed to dispose of old completed application forms as they are no longer needed. VL also asked permission to dispose of old finance records outside of the seven-year requirement. Permission was granted for those records prior to 2015.

Mobile phone – It was decided that we keep the dedicated phone for u3a business. PR will look into obtaining a new PAYG SIM card and once activated will forward telephone number for use on the programme and website. If needed, any discussion for an upgraded phone will be postponed until a later time.

The new application form amended by PR was received well and after a few more amendments was finalized. There were concerns about not having an address to which to send applications, therefore, it was agreed the current form remain on the website until she returns from her holiday, when she will implement the new procedure.

DR stated that the hall at Linskill is booked up until December and asked who normally books the hall and room at St. Andrews Church. It was decided it is Business Secretary's responsibility and they will talk with IB on his return from holiday. DR also requested that another person have a key to the church as a backup. DG confirmed she has a spare key.

The National newsletter is available to all members; however, they need to register. It was agreed that this needs to be pointed out to members and will be included in the next newsletter.

A conversation around u3a equipment was brought up suggesting it might be wise to upgrade the iPads as some of them do not seem to be updating properly.

Two groups are no longer running, the Strollers and Short Walks due to not having a group leader, we are hoping to restart these groups later in the year.

Date of next meeting: 4th July at 12:00, St. Andrew's Church.

Meeting closed at 2:00 p.m.