Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 21st March at Hexham Community Centre

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Ally Forster, Margaret Earl, Lesley Parsons, John Dark, Ian Diggory, Michael Brockway and Ann Atkinson

No.		Action/ person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Welcome to Michael Brockway and apologies were received from Tim O'Brien.	
2	**Minutes of meeting** held on 22nd February 2024 were accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** No matters arising	
4	**Chair's Report:** Barrie reported that he was waiting to hear from Corbridge Cricket Club as a potential venue for the Garden party. In terms of the Convenors lunch, 46 members were coming along, 14 had declined and there had been no response from 9 members. Kate and John gave their apologies. The lunch will take place from 1pm – 3pm and include a welcome drink at £4 and buffet lunch at £15. Colin is the point of contact for the lunch and will confirm numbers with Karen a week before the event. Barrie asked if name tags were needed for the lunch and it was agreed that sticky labels should be provided for attendees to put their names on. It was agreed not to put questions on the tables to obtain feedback as this had not been very useful last year. There were 3 guests attending including Liz Thackray from the Third Age Trust. A service charge would be added to the bill for the lunch. Ally asked if it would be okay to talk to convenors and video. It was agreed this was fine as long as the convenors were happy to do so. Following discussion about the use of the small room at the Community Centre for start ups and small groups, the cost implications, benefits and disadvantages, it was decided not to sign for use of the Community Centre. This was the opinion of the majority of the committee. Ally would discuss with Barrie the possibility to consider the co-working space in the town centre for groups.	BM AF/BM
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann informed that she had received an apology from the Third Age Trust for not sending her copies of Third Age Matters for new members following the liquidation of the firm who were engaged in the digital transfer. A new firm had now taken over and records have been submitted so that all current members signed up for TAM should receive the next magazine. Ann stated that she would inform the Community Centre that we would no longer require the monthly booking for our Committee meetings. Four people had been in touch with Ann to state that they would have difficulty getting to the Mart because of mobility problems. Ann had passed their details on to Barrie to address.	AA BM
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate reported that we had just over £19000. The sound system had been paid for. Mandates had been updated and Colin and Wendy taken off. Charity Commission returns were to be completed. Barrie informed that the Auction Mart were storing	KR

	the sound system and that the Abbey had donated the noticeboards we had been using. There would be facility for members to purchase coffee after the monthly meetings at the Mart.	
7	**Events Secretary's Report:** Margaret informed that a third visit was being arranged for Egger and Ian Wells was organising the first visit. Dates had been received for the visit to Auckland Castle in July. It would cost £600 for the coach. The cost for the trip would be £35 per person based on 40 attendees and 46 members had expressed an interest to date. The visit would include the museum, castle and a guide. It was agreed to go ahead with the visit. Margaret had received no response from Marchmont House. Wendy is looking at a visit to Ushaw College. Margaret stated that day visits were popular and there had been interest in Blenheim and Barton visits. Ally stated that she had been contacted by a new business that was willing to provide a glass weaving workshop for members. Whilst the event would be free attendees would have to pay £25 to purchase what they made. Ally and Margaret to liaise in relation to this event	MW MW/AF
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Michael Brockwell was welcomed as the replacement for Colin as Group Liaison Secretary.	
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Tim was unable to attend the meeting and had nothing to report.	
10	**Publicity Officer's Report:** Ally reported that she had been very busy responding to emails and Facebook. There had been a lot of interest expressed in attending the coffee morning from potential new members.	
11	**Programme Secretary's Report:** Ian informed that he had speakers lined up for every month up to April next year. It was asked if he could send an updated list of the speakers to the committee members.	ID
12	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John reported that we had lots of new members thanks to Ally's promotion on Facebook and Instagram. There were 25 new members in February. John asked how we might run the coffee morning in April with potentially 50 attendees. It was felt that there would need to be more committee members attending to assist and it was agreed to invite all new potential members and new members who had not been to a coffee morning. A date had been provisionally booked for 19th April. It was suggested that John should make it clear that the coffee morning starts at 10.30am with a presentation at 10.45am.	JD
13	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Lesley informed that she would get Michael up to speed on Beacon. She informed that we now have a website up and running and it is currently in maintenance mode. If we want to take a look at the site, it can be viewed at tynedale.u3asite.uk. It is work in progress.	LP
14	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie informed that there were a couple of reports from the Third Age Trust - Fit for the Future, an update from Liz Thackray and another report about having a Council. He expressed concern that this was just another layer of administration.	
15	**A.O.B.:** Barrie raised the issue of the growing membership of Tynedale u3a that social media had opened up. There were currently 577 members and continuing to grow. Barrie is keen to build on what we have got and the coffee mornings are useful for consolidation. It was felt that there was scope to expand as some u3a's had significantly more members than Tynedale and whilst it was likely we may get more members, growth will not be exponential.	AF
16	**Date and time for next meeting:** Thursday 25th April 2024 at 2pm.	

Meeting ended at 15:25

Minutes Approved **Dated:**