Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 23rd May 2024 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Ally Forster, Margaret Earl, Lesley Parsons, John Dark, Ian Diggory (on Teams from item 5), Michael Brockway, Tim O'Brien and Ann Atkinson

No.		Action/ person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies were received from Ian Diggory who planned to join the meeting online later on.	
2	**Minutes of meeting** held on 25th April 2024 accepted as a true record. A minor amendment was requested by Ally.	AA
3	**Matters Arising:** None	
4	**Chair's Report:** Barrie asked if committee members had considered taking on the role of Vice-Chair. He stated that it was not essential to have a Vice Chair as long as a member of the committee was willing to step up and act as chair if Barrie was unable to attend a committee meeting. No one expressed a willingness to take on the role of Vice Chair and the committee were happy to deal with the situation as and when it arose. Ally had been to visit Tynedale Rugby Club as an alternative venue for the garden party and reported that there was not suitable access and therefore not appropriate. It was also felt that there were also accessibility problems with the Cricket Club and that it was limited in the numbers that could attend. Following discussion it was agreed that the garden party was not a viable proposition given the logistical issues and that we should plan to have a Christmas Party at the Auction Mart after the meeting on the 3rd December. There would be a requirement to sign up for this event.	
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann informed that she had forwarded information from the region and national u3a and that there was nothing further to report. Ally informed that she had put details of the regional photography competition on Facebook.	
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate asked if there were any comments in relation to the Annual Return for the Charity Commission and responded to a couple of queries from Margaret. Everyone was happy with the content. Kate reported that there was £15,000 in the bank which was at its lowest at this time of year as there were more outgoings e.g. convenors lunch, Third Age Trust subscription, fewer new members. Third Age Trusts costs were up 6%. Third Age Matters (TAM) was now £3.80 up from £3.60 so membership would need to be increased to £17.80 for those members wanting to receive TAM. From June, new members will need to pay the increased amount and current members from September. John would also have to deal with those members with standing orders.	KS JD
7	**Events Secretary's Report:** Margaret stated that there were 36 wanting to go to Auckland Castle so hoped that they could reach 40 so would be solvent. 12 members are going to Blenheim Palace Flower Show. 15 members went to Barton Grange last week. Margaret raised the issue of her contribution in the future and whilst she would continue in the role she may not necessarily be as active and would quieten down in the Autumn.	MW

8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Michael informed that he had received very few enquiries about groups. A group on Play Reading was possibly going to make use of the Masonic Hall. Barrie was meeting the convenor. The Carpet Bowls group had not taken off as there was not enough interest. Some concern was raised about increased membership and no new groups. There was a need to make sure that Convenors were informing Michael if members were being turned away from groups because they were full.	MB
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Tim informed that only a few took a hard copy of the newsletter at the monthly meeting. The main reason was difficulty reading the newsletter on their mobile phone. Lesley informed that from the website she could identify how members accessed it, half used a PC, half used a phone and few used a tablet, so there did not appear to be a difficulty for most members. John informed of a useful website Ability.net that we should inform members about which covered general digital skills, security, scamming issues, webinar on using a computer and had a free helpline. John to write a note on this for the newsletter. It was suggested that we might want to set up a group to support members with digital skills. It was however identified that members can be directed to the library for support. John to put together a brief note for the newsletter to ask if members attending the monthly meeting from outlying areas e.g. Haydon, Bridge, Haltwhistle, need a lift to the venue and to let him know so he can see what can be organised.	JD JD
10	**Publicity Officer's Report:** Ally informed that she was still posting but consolidating and it was going well. She asked if we are going to allow people to post things that are not u3a. After discussion it was agreed that we should just keep postings to u3a activities.	AF
11	**Programme Secretary's Report:** There were 102 attendees at the last monthly meeting. Ian informed that he had sent a list of speakers to all committee members. He had sent a list of the talks that Barry Mears could give and asked which one we would like. It was agreed that we should individually inform Ian of our preferences. He also raised making use of the wealth of talent in u3a and getting four members to give 15 minute presentations on a subject at a monthly meeting and suggested January 2025. It was stated that these talks would need to be general and the proposals vetted. John suggested that there should be three speakers, 15 mins speaking and 5 mins for questions. Ian to put a request out in the newsletter asking members if interested in speaking on a topic for 15 minutes at the January meeting and the subject of their talk. Ian would move Barrie Mears' talk to May 2025.	All ID
12	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John reported that numbers had tailed off and there were 6 new members this month, 596 in total. John informed that he wants to drop membership cards. He does send out a digital card as a PDF and members can use this to get discount with some businesses. In terms of the costs and time involved in producing cards it was agreed that it was not worthwhile. It is essential that a member does have a number and is particularly helpful if there is a member with the same name. John stated that new members are asked to reply to a welcoming email, are sent an electronic membership card, their details put on Beacon and mentioned in the newsletter. From 1st June, John will stop sending printed cards. Members will be asked to use their number on renewals.	JD
13	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Lesley stated that she would need to put TAM details into Beacon. She informed that she received information about Beacon training courses and stated that if anyone was interested she would send them out. No committee members expressed an interest in training at present. She informed that the website had been well received and had sent out to committee members website analytics on visits to pages since it went live. Lesley informed that she had not yet looked at the figures in any detail.	LP

14	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie informed that he had not responded to the email from Berwick u3a about their views on 'Fit for the Future' Following discussion it was felt that 'Fit for the Future' was short on detail and that hopefully more information would be available in July. Barrie had asked for the minutes of the AGM from the Third Age Trust and had been informed that these were not yet available. Ally informed that there was a face to face regional meeting on social activism next Wednesday that she would be attending. Ally was asked to send details out to committee members in case anyone else was interested in attending.	AF
15	**A.O.B.:** Tim informed that the next newsletter would be going out on 28th/29th May so to get information to him as soon as possible.	
16	**Date and time for next meeting:** Thursday 27th June 2024 at 2pm.	

Meeting ended at 15:35

Minutes Approved **Dated:**