

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27th June 2024 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Margaret Earl, Lesley Parsons, Ian Diggory (on Teams up to item 11), Michael Brockway, Tim O'Brien and Ann Atkinson

No.		Action/ person
1	Welcome and Apologies: Apologies were received from Ally Forster and John Dark	
2	Minutes of meeting held on 23 rd May 2024 accepted as a true record. An amendment was required in members present.	AA
3	Matters Arising: None	
4	Chair's Report: Barrie informed that he had met Robert Whitlock at Hexham Racecourse to consider as a possible venue for future events. He thought that the facilities there were fantastic with opportunities to use indoor and outdoor space. Parking facilities were also good. The cost would be more expensive than usual venues £300 for an afternoon. He stated that there was an open invitation for the committee to go and view the venue. Barrie asked if members had any views on who we should vote for as Chair of the Third Age Trust. Following a brief discussion a candidate was agreed by the Committee. The Christmas Party at the Auction Mart would take place on the date of the monthly meeting on the 3rd December 2024. There would be a requirement to sign up for this event. Following discussion it was agreed that we would aim for 160 attendees and have a cold buffet. The event would be from 1.30pm to 5pm with a band to begin with as members arrived, followed by food and a light hearted talk from Colin Argent. The bar would also be open. Margaret would get costing for food and expected to be in the region of £12- £15 per person. Barrie would develop an online booking form which would be available on the website and members would also be able to book by phoning him. In total we would be looking at around £2500 from funds.	ME BM
5	Business Secretary's Report: Ann stated that she had nothing to report and that any information received from the region and national u3a had been forwarded to committee members.	
6	Treasurer's Report: Kate reported that we had £15,500 cash in the bank and £3800 group and events funds. There had been 400 bank transactions in the first six months of the year. Regular updates were given to groups and events on status of their funds. Expected invoice from the Torch Centre had not been received which may be due to a change in administration and will keep an eye on this. The Masonic Hall had also not provided an invoice yet.	KS
7	Events Secretary's Report: Margaret reported that 44 people had booked and paid up for Auckland Castle so all organised with a slight profit. She has decided to offer pre-ordering of lunch which is currently being processed. There was nothing else planned.	MW

8	Group Liaison Secretary's Report: Michael informed that there were possibly two new groups starting and information had been put in the newsletter. Ally had also been in touch to say she could promote the groups on Facebook. He also asked if a group could promote themselves at the monthly meeting with a poster which was felt most appropriate to recruit new members. Tim informed that he had produced a poster and fliers to be available at the monthly meeting for the Walking with Dogs group that needed new members to join. Michael had received a request from a member about bringing a dog to meet members outside the monthly meeting venue, to promote the group. Tim informed that this had not been discussed and agreed by the Convenor of the group and should not take place. There was also concern that there would be members attending the monthly meeting not keen on dogs and that this was not appropriate. Michael to respond to the email received about this.	MB
9	Newsletter Editor's Report: Tim informed he had nothing to report but stated that it would be helpful if he could receive contributions on time. He was aware however that some reports are not time specific so contributors are happy for articles to be put in the following newsletter. He had received positive feedback about the newsletter from members and committee members all agreed that the newsletter was very informative.	
10	Publicity Officer's Report: Ally in her absence sent a report informing that the page and group have had approximately 10,000 views over the last month with no major drive for membership currently being actioned. The Tyne Valley Express magazine and website have all been updated with new contact details and new website address. It was stated that membership has increased from the use of social media and it will be interesting to see the number of membership renewals we get for next year.	
11	Programme Secretary's Report: There were 101 attendees at the last monthly meeting. Ian informed that Julia Madgwick, a book group convenor, had been in touch about organising an author event with Henrietta Heald which would likely be of interest to other groups. This would take place in the Priors Hall or Great Hall. Ian asked if we wanted to support this. The travel expenses of the author and room costs would need to be covered. The group have some money in their account but not enough to cover it all. It was agreed that we should support cross group events as we have done in the past but it would need to be self-financing. Julia anticipated that 50 people might attend. Ian to inform Julia. Ian had also been contacted by Marjorie Henry about a talk on Fraud and Scams by the Regional Economic Crime Coordination Centre. It was felt that this would be of interest to everyone and should be an extra monthly meeting. We had lost contact with Ian during the discussion and Barrie stated that he would inform Ian of the outcome of the discussion when he met with him on Tuesday. Barrie informed that there had been 39 views of the video on Plagues but thought the next meeting might be of wider interest.	ID BM
12	Membership Secretary's Report: John in his absence sent a report informing that we now had 606 members up from 596 a month ago. It was stated that when renewal of membership takes place, members do not always indicate their membership number or reference that the payment is for membership. As membership is £14, Michael was asked to contact Convenors and request that they do not to make any of their payments for group activities £14 as this can add to confusion with membership renewals.	MB
13	Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report: Lesley informed that the website was ticking over. The main issue was people not telling her when there were any changes to be made to the website. There had been a couple of emails rejected on Beacon but these had been unblocked.	
14	Regional and Third Age Trust: There had been a number of activities planned by Northumbria u3a for the autumn. It was agreed to put the link to the events in the September newsletter. Lesley would also put the link on the website and may draw attention to activities that might be of particular interest.	TB LP

15	A.O.B.: None	
16	Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 25 th July 2024 at 2pm.	

Meeting ended at 15:00

Minutes Approved

Dated: