Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 2024 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Michael Brockway, Ian Diggory, John Dark and Ann Atkinson

No.		Action/ person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies were received from Lesley Parsons and Tim O'Brien	
2	**Minutes of meeting** held on 26th September 2024 accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** None	
4	**Chair's Report**: Barrie reported that he had 53 replies from members expressing an interest in digital training. The most popular training wanted was using an IPad /I phone and using and storing documents. The majority were happy to attend training at the Golf Club. Barrie had emailed all who had been in touch expressing an interest. The training would be limited to 10 people and this would be a trial with the potential to provide more training if successful. The second training session would be held at the Community Centre. Barrie is waiting for AbilityNet to get in touch with a date and time. The hire of the room at the Golf Club will be approximately £60 and it is expected that this will include tea and coffee. The Christmas Party – It had been decided at the last meeting to charge a booking fee although Barrie had reservations for a number of reasons. Following further discussion and information on numbers at previous similar events, i.e. no more than 140 and concerns raised about whether charging a booking fee would ensure commitment from members, it was agreed that we would go ahead and not make a charge. A booking form would be sent out to members by Barrie to find out the number of members planning to attend. Barrie had spoken to Karen at the Mart and Maxine from the band. It was decided that the Party would start at 1.30pm with music and the bar open, food at 2.00pm and Colin providing his talk from 3.00pm – 4.00pm. Music would then be played from 4.00pm. There was a budget of £2500 for the event. Committee members – Barrie reported that there had been no interest at all in the committee roles outstanding. He also reported that the Region were also having similar problems and that the Regional u3a may fold if there is no one willing to take on the role of Chair. Lesley will be leaving her role as Website and Beacon lead at the next AGM, an essential role that Michael suggested that he would be willing to take on if someone could take on the role of Convenor. In terms of the Events role, John suggested that we could encourage more groups to organise visits which many already do. This was something that could be discussed at the Convenors Group.	BM MB
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann informed that she had forwarded information to committee members from the Third Age Trust and the Region and had nothing further to report. Ann would produce a calendar of committee and monthly meetings and newsletter deadlines for 2025/6 for the next meeting.	AA

6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate provided a detailed report on the finances with forecasts for 2024 to the end of December and actuals from last year. Gift Aid was a bit down from last year and expenses had been a lot more this year, the Christmas party, hire of the Mart, extra speakers and 40th anniversary booklet. Beacon and membership of the Third Age Trust had increased. There was a reduction in working capital to £3481. Kate also produced a forecast for 2025 and if keep membership at £14 and include a bit of inflation we should still have over 6 months cover, around £2000. Barrie informed that he expected an increase of expenses to the Third Age Trust as they are in deficit of £165,000.	
7	**Events Secretary's Report:** No report available	
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Michael reported that he had carried out a census of groups and a third of convenors had not replied. There were 58 groups on Beacon and two have been deleted, Welsh beginners and Creative crafts, so 41 replies from 56 groups. 11 people were not registered on Beacon and he had asked for clarification from Convenors. Michael has not heard anything from the urban sketching group if they are to form as a u3a group. Michael had been in touch with the Mart and planning to hold the Convenors Lunch in early April on a Wednesday avoiding Easter.	MB
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** No report available	
10	**Publicity Officer's Report:** Barrie informed that Facebook was ticking over and was strict that new users were member of u3a. Good feedback was received from members and it provided another means of communication. Barrie asked that information is sent to him that is suitable for Facebook. He stated that we need to ensure that we can access Canva. Ann informed that she had received an email from Canva asking to confirm that Lesley was a legitimate member of u3a, implying that Lesley had been in contact with them. Ann to discuss with Lesley on her return.	AA
11	**Programme Secretary's Report:** Ian reported that there were over 100 attendees at the last monthly meeting on the Reivers. Barrie informed that 123 had looked at the video, the highest number so far. Ian Jackson would be speaking at the November meeting and Colin in December. Speakers are booked up to next May. In January Ian is hoping we can have a DIY monthly meeting with 4-5 members talking for 10-15 mins. This would be an opportunity for members to talk about their formative years, holiday jobs, careers for example, anything humorous, interesting or thought provoking. He would announce it at the November meeting and offer help if needed with presentations. Also to include in the next newsletter.	ID
12	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John informed members are continuing to renew and some may be due to Michael badgering convenors about their members. Membership is hovering around the 600 mark. John may ask the committee to ring round to check non-renewing members in due course. Coffee morning booked for Wednesday 13th November at 10.30am. 90 emails have gone out to new and potential members and will probably result in about 30 attending. Quite a few joined after the coffee morning last time. Barrie was asked to put the Coffee morning on Facebook, publicise at the monthly meeting and for Tim to put the details in the newsletter. Barrie informed that he is rewriting the overhead presentations. John, Barrie Michael and Ann will attend the coffee morning.	JD BM TB
13	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Lesley had informed Barrie that Beacon was up to date.	
14	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie informed that he attended the AGM online and as expected the changes to the structure of the Third Age Trust were passed by a majority. The executive power of the Council is unclear and the Annual Report is on the Third Age Trust website. The Region have a problem with the Chair stepping down and no one willing to take on the role. They will wind up region if no one takes on the role. There was discussion at a regional level of standardising the newsletters of u3a's. This is something we would be totally against.	

15	**A.O.B:** Michael had been approached by Adrian Woolley about the possibility of the rhythm band getting lessons from Core Music with financial support from u3a. Michael had thought this was not appropriate use of u3a funds to which all members agreed. Michael to inform Adrian.	MB
16	**Date and time for next meeting:** Thursday 28th November 2024 at 2pm.	

Meeting ended at 15:30

Minutes Approved **Dated: 28th November 2024**