Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28th November 2024 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Michael Brockway, Ian Diggory, Lesley Parsons, Tim O'Brien and Ann Atkinson

No.		Action/ person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies were received from John Dark	
2	**Minutes of meeting** held on 23rd October 2024 accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** None	
4	**Chair's Report**: Barrie reported that the projector had been replaced with a new one at the County Hotel at their cost. He informed that a member at the coffee morning had expressed an interest in the Events Secretary role and Lesley informed that a member had also approached her. Lesley to send over the details to Barrie and he will get in touch with her. Barrie felt at this stage we would not need anyone to take on the role until after the AGM. In relation to the Christmas Party, Barrie informed that Karen at the Mart was meeting with him alongside Kate, Lesley and Ann to ensure that all queries in relation to the event were covered. 155 people are registered to attend and 11 have cancelled since receiving the email from Ann. 9 were on the waiting list. Questions that needed to be asked of Karen were discussed.	LP
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 sent an email to all members about roles on the national Council and Board of Trustees. Ann has produced and sent out a calendar of committee, monthly meetings and newsletter deadlines for 2025/6 and had updated Committee trustees on the Charity Commission website.	
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate informed that there was £15,000 in the current account and £6000 in savings accounts. Science Group had asked for approval of use of the money in their group account which was agreed. Payment in relation to the Book Event was agreed to cover tea and coffee as well as the room as an upgrade to the room had been provided at no extra cost. Barrie reiterated that the costs of the speaker were down to the group and should be kept under control. Kate informed that Ann and Michael are in the process of being put on the Bank Mandate and Margaret taken off. Kate asked if Ian would be willing to be put on the Bank Mandate too and he agreed.	
7	**Events Secretary's Report:** No report available	
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Michael informed that he had received an email from the Mart in relation to the Convenors lunch. He had spoken to Karen and Wednesday 9th April had been agreed with the format and timing the same as this year. Arrive 1pm for lunch at 1.30pm, welcome drink, buffet and tea and coffee. It was agreed to make a provisional booking. Michael had also asked Convenors if they wanted a Convenors	MB

	Handbook and he had received 7 replies. One of the key issues raised was providing a reliable list of accommodation for groups which is difficult because of changes always taking place. It was felt that the existing Convenors handbook was heavy handed and needed to be much more light touch. It was suggested that at the Convenors lunch the main points for Convenors could be put on a slide and any issues discussed there. It was felt that it needed to be just guidelines of responsibilities. Kate informed that she had been at the Torch Centre and had noted that there was a u3a music group there too. Michael was not aware that the Band suggested by Adrian Woolley was now operational and would get in touch with him for details so that it could be added to the list of groups on the website. The Modern Greek group was in limbo and attempts were being made to start a regional group. Michael informed that he was waiting to hear if the Real Appreciation Group was now operational. Lesley informed that the Urban Sketchers were not going to be a u3a group.	
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Tim informed that his MAC does not recognise Beacon and had to rely on Lesley to send out the newsletter. Material is coming in for the newsletter and again reiterated that people do not recognise deadlines. Barrie informed that he had received very positive feedback about the newsletter and all agreed that it was a good read.	
10	**Publicity Officer's Report:** Barrie suggested that we remove this from the Committee agenda and as a role for the interim. The Facebook page is run by the Chair currently and word of mouth appears to be the most powerful means of getting members. We currently have 609 members and do not need to push membership. He agreed that we should have a presence in the Library as John had suggested with a poster and in the folder of organisations. It was a surprise that this was not already the case. Tim informed that flyers tended to be better than posters in terms of publicity. Barrie to talk to John about this.	BM
11	**Programme Secretary's Report:** There were 117 attendees at the last monthly meeting. Ian reported that he had only two members who had volunteered to speak at the monthly meeting in January and one of the topics was considered inappropriate as too political. Ian informed that he could possibly talk and Barrie suggested another member who might be willing to participate and would provide contact details. Committee members were asked to encourage members of their groups to participate.	BM ID All
12	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John provided a report in his absence. We now have 608 members, 6 new in November, 34 new since September 1st. There are 56 still to renew, 51 with email addresses will again be reminded and the remaining 5 postal only will get phone calls. They will be told they are lapsed from January 1st and will get no further communication.	JD
13	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Lesley informed that website was fine but aware that there was not much on the events page regarding outings. It was possible to put pictures on that as it was looking a bit bare. It was up to us how much information we put on in relation to regional and national information.	
14	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie had attended the regional meeting and it was evident that other chairs in the region were also lukewarm in relation to providing members for the new Third Age Trust Council. He stated that we are one of the biggest u3a's in the region as most are around 250 – 300 members. He had raised the issue of handling deaths of members and whilst some publicised them he asked the views of our committee. Following discussion we agreed as previously that we would not publicise deaths of members as the pitfalls were too numerous.	
15	**A.O.B:** None	
16	**Date and time for next meeting:** Thursday 19th December 2024 at 2pm.	

Meeting ended at 15:40

Minutes Approved **Dated: 19/12/24**