Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Annual General Meeting 2024 held at 2pm on Tuesday 5th March in the Great Hall, Hexham Abbey

1. **Welcome:** The Chair, Wendy Dale welcomed all members to the 2024 AGM

2. **Apologies** were received from Geoff Holdcroft, Ray Bather, Sally Hewitt, Sarah Walsh, Adrian Woolley, Julia Woolley, John Harrison, Averil Harrison, Jacqui Kerr

3. **Minutes of 2023 AGM** which were published in the March newsletter were accepted as an accurate record.

4. **Matters arising:** Wendy informed that as a result of a change in the Treasurer, the examiner of accounts had changed from that stated in the minutes.

5. **Chair's Report:** Wendy stated that she was privileged to be the Chair and was proud to be a part of the organisation. She detailed the key activities that had taken place over the last year and the support that had been provided by the committee. Wendy's full report will be published in the April newsletter.

6. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer Kate Stephenson informed that the accounts were in a good condition generally. Savings had been made not renewing membership cards which saved on postage and not using the Hexham Courant for publicity had also been a saving. Inflation costs did not materialise and general running costs are being covered. A new sound system for the Mart monthly meetings and associated furniture costs will be bought from reserves. There is £19,000 in reserves and the current £14 subscription is enough to cover the general running costs.

The accounts were agreed unanimously.

7. **Election of Chai**r: The election of Barrie Mellars as Chair was agreed unanimously. Barrie took over the meeting and stated he was privileged to work with everyone. He informed about his background and made a special vote of thanks to Wendy for all the work that she had done for u3a.

8. **Committee Motions**

73 attendees voted and 45 electronic votes and 13 postal votes were received from non- attendees.

It was proposed that Tynedale u3a will adopt a revised constitution that is in line with the model recommended by the Third Age Trust. The benefits are that the revised document is more comprehensive and accessible. The current constitution has been subject to piecemeal revisions and is limited in scope. The change is not anticipated to have any consequences for the running of Tynedale u3a.

The motion was agreed by a significant majority.

It was proposed that Tynedale u3a will rent office accommodation at the community centre in Hexham for a period of 12 months when an office becomes available. The purpose is to support small interest groups who are having difficulty accessing appropriate accommodation and to assist the development of new groups. The benefits will be assessed after one year and if the committee is satisfied that the arrangements are cost effective the rent period will continue and be kept under review.

Colin Argent, Group Liaison Secretary spoke in support of the motion indicated that we have an increased membership and currently 54 groups and there was a need to encourage new groups as well as providing a venue for small groups which were struggling to find somewhere to meet. Having a small meeting room in the community centre would make it easy for the spawning of groups. There would also be reduced rates on bigger rooms so current groups could expand. There were options for three other rooms, a boardroom, a room for up to 50 people and another for up to 100 people. The community centre would be a trial for a year. Barrie informed that the golf club had served us well, the room layout was not ideal but he believed that this was a step forward.

Questions from the membership included the criteria for success. It was stated that there would be monitoring of the rooms used and constant assessment, looking at the percentage of membership using it. A member stated that there is a need to look at evaluating objectives in terms of measuring the development of groups and new groups. This was agreed.

There was also a question about the costs of the rooms. Barrie informed that the small room would be free and larger room free in the first instance. For bigger meetings there would be a charge. The small room would cost £273.60 per month, £3283.20 for the year and will come out of reserves. The larger room would take 15 boardroom style and up to 20 comfortably. A projector, screen and sound system are available. A monitor will be put in the small room and keys cut to enable convenors to access or they could obtain the key from reception. This will be on a booked basis. The booking of larger rooms will be dependent on availability. A member asked if it was possible to sub-let the room but it was felt that this would be unlikely.

The motion was agreed by a large majority, three attendees voted against the motion.

7. **Confirmation in post**

Elections to the Committee

- Treasurer – Kate Stephenson
- Social Media Secretary – Allyjo Forster
- Events Secretary – Margaret Earl
- Programme Secretary – Ian Diggory

  Proposer: Wendy Dale Seconder: Barrie Mellars
- Group Liaison Secretary - vacant

Committee members identified themselves and were confirmed in post by the membership and Ian Diggory introduced himself as a new member.

Barrie stated that Colin will not be continuing in his post so we need a Group Liaison Secretary. He considered that it was a very rewarding job and asked if anyone was interested to come and talk to him.

8. **The subscription to remain at £14 per annum** was agreed unanimously

9. **Honorary Examiner for 2024:** The change of examiner to Mike Bewick was agreed.

10. AOB

The Convenor of the modern Greek group which currently has three members reached out for more people to join the group. He also wanted to reach out to other groups in the region.
Another member wanted to make contact with the convenor for French speaking to share information but unfortunately they were not present at the meeting.
Margaret Earl, Events Secretary encouraged members to join the Carpet Bowls group which provided two hours of good exercise and fun. Expert tuition was provided and lunch for £2. More people are needed and members are encouraged to speak to the convenor who would be pleased to see members at the Friday session.

Barrie informed about some events planned for the year including the convenors lunch, quiz night later in the year and the move to the Mart. We would keep a watching brief on the Garden Café which when it opens is encouraging community use. He stressed the importance of the need for committee members and hoped that in his role he could live up to expectations.

Presentation and launch of the booklet 40 years of Tynedale u3a

Barrie informed that the driving force for this booklet was a reminder in 2022 that the anniversary was coming up. Members who had been in the organisation over 10 years were asked to give their memories and interviews were carried out by Sally Hewitt, the Publications Secretary. Unfortunately there were gaps and it was important to have a story to tell. Barrie talked of the trials and tribulations producing the booklet which included accessing paper records from 3 large boxes from Northumberland Archives at Woodhorn. Archived material ran out from 2007 until 2016. Fortunately John De Stefano had newsletters from 1992-2009 and 2011-2016. There were constant rewrites until it was time to call a halt and turn it into a brochure. Colin and Wendy were driving forces ensuring its completion and Barrie concluded 'recollections may vary'.