Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 27th March 2025 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, , Michael Brockway, Ian Diggory, John Dark, Steve Rozario and Ann Atkinson

No.		Action/ person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies were received from Kate Stephenson, Tim O'Brien and Fran Fuller.	
2	**Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** None	
4	**Chair's Report**: Garden Party - Barrie informed that he and Kate had been to the racecourse and that they were keen for us to go there. Barrie showed photos of the site. They could cater for up to 250 people and if the weather is poor the main hospitality suite can hold 120-140 people. They can provide a bar at club prices and Barrie suggested that we ask Jason Arnop to provide musical entertainment. Kate will look at the costs and if the final quote from the caterers is too much we will look at other options for providing food. Wednesday 9th July was suggested as a provisional date. Barrie informed that we will be charging and that the party would be open to partners. The expectation is that approximately 125 will attend. Cost to be subsidised by Tynedale u3a at a level to be discussed. IT training - Barrie informed that IT training on 'Scams and how to avoid them' is taking place on Monday at 2.00pm with 81 people signed up to attend. They will be using the biggest room at the Community Centre. Barrie informed that he is having to take the sound equipment from the Mart as the Community Centre is not set up for this, so not ideal for talks with large numbers of attendees. Vice Chair - The importance of having a Vice-Chair was raised by Wendy Dale at the AGM and Barrie informed that we were currently in breach of the constitution by not having one. John Dark agreed to take on the role on the understanding that this did not mean that he would be willing to take on the role of Chair at the end of Barrie's term in office. Steve was happy to propose and Michael second. Events Secretary Assistant – Barrie proposed that Andrew Rigg be invited to support Fran in her role of Events Secretary. Fran was happy with this as their particular interests would complement one another. Andrew would be invited to join the Committee. Barrie had been checking the policies and raised a couple of issues. These were discussed and whilst one required no action it was agreed that in relation to the Environment Policy that we should keep and ensure that a speaker provides a talk that addresses the effects of human activity on the environment.	KS BM
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann informed that she had sent out regional and national information to committee members. The Third Age Trust Brand Shop required the names of two members for the Portal to access customised publicity materials, photo library and	AA

	u3a logos. Ann informed that she was happy to put her contact details forward and Barrie agreed to include his too.	
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate in her absence had provided financial information for February. Cash in the bank currently £13140.62 and savings of £6107.36 so a total of just over £19k.	
7	**Events Secretary's Report:** No report available	
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Steve suggested that email addresses as role based should be kept the same when committee members moved on which was agreed. He saw the key areas of his role as finding convenors and spaces for groups to meet. He had looked at the numbers of members of u3a's in the region and the number of groups they had and had deduced that we had the right number of groups i.e. 55 for the numbers of members we had, a group for every 9-12 members. Barrie stated that we should encourage new groups to meet in member's homes which had worked well for some new groups. Steve stated that he would produce a video for the Convenors lunch as he was unable to attend. Michael informed that there were 42 attending and 16 had declined or not got back to him. He needed final numbers by 7th April. John informed that there had been problems with the audio visual equipment at the Geology Group at the County Hotel and it seemed that some laptops were fine whilst others had problems. Following discussion it was agreed that Steve would purchase a remote access device which would be set up for the Science Group to begin with and if this proved successful to consider purchasing one for each group meeting at the County with the Convenor taking responsibility for the cable. It was also suggested that a flat screen TV would be useful at the Newcastle Building Society. Barrie had one available which he was willing to provide if it was felt this was needed.	SR SR
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Tim had asked Barrie if some photos could be taken at the coffee morning on Friday for the newsletter. This was agreed was fine as long as approval was sought from attendees beforehand.	BM
10	**Programme Secretary's Report:** 69 members had attended the AGM and Barrie informed that 31 members had viewed it. Ian informed that he had only one space to fill up for this year. Tuesday's meeting was on the Art Treasures of Durham University. John raised the issue of the operation of the video at the meeting in the absence of the member who was responsible for this which had occurred. Barrie informed that he was happy to train someone and would write a piece in the newsletter to ask if anyone would be willing to take this on.	BM
11	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John informed that there have been 6 new members in the month, with two very late renewals from members who had lapsed some time ago. He had been informed about the death of a member. For the coffee morning tomorrow for new members, he had sent invitations out to 75 members who have joined since April last year, and then another 4 to people who joined in the past couple of weeks. 19 replied to the first invite and then another 24 replied to the reminder a week later. 24 will be attending with another 4 possibles. As around 40 could not attend it is planned to hold another coffee morning, most likely on 4th June.	JD
12	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Michael informed that he had looked through the website and all the reports looked okay. He will add the newsletter and any additional information as and when he is asked to do so.	MB
13	**Hadrian's Wall Group Website funding** – Following discussion about the request for u3a to fund the website for the next year or two prior to the group obtaining funding, it was agreed that this was not appropriate for a number of reasons. It was agreed that Steve would write to the group explaining the reasons for this.	SR
14	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie informed that the Regional AGM was taking	

	place on April 28th at Seaham and that he would not be attending. He was surprised that there had not been any announcement about a new Chair as this was a position they were struggling to fill. He had informed Fran about the regional visits and asked Tim to include in the newsletter	TB
15	**A.O.B:** John asked about the numbers attending the monthly meetings and Ann informed that they were always included in the minutes of committee meetings. Whilst we did get more than the Abbey could cope with at some meetings it was agreed that those attending were probably different to those who attended the meetings when held at the Abbey. The Mart attracting members from outlying areas whilst the Abbey attracting mainly Hexham residents. It was felt important to encourage specialist meetings open to all members which had proved very successful last year. Ian to write a piece for the next newsletter to encourage groups to consider this. Barrie informed Ann that the date on the agenda for the next meeting was stated as 25th April and should be 24th April.	ID AA
15	**Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 24th April 2025 at 2pm.**	

Meeting ended at 15:25

Minutes Approved **Dated:**