Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 28th August 2025 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Ian Diggory, Steve Rozario, John Dark, Kate Stephenson and Ann Atkinson.

No.		Action / person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies received from Fran Fuller, Michael Brockway, Tim O'Brien and Andrew Rigg	
2	**Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** No matters arising.	
4	**Chair's Report**: The Garden Party went well and Barrie informed that he had received many positive comments about the Party. The venue and food were excellent and the booking system Try Booking worked well. It was agreed that having the live music was not worthwhile.	
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann had nothing to report.	
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate reported that in July we had our lowest level of funds £10,000 working capital. Six months costs were £8,000 so covering the costs for this period. There was £539 of Gift Aid. It was stated that a lot of u3a's had been challenged on this. Kate did already spend a lot of time on Gift Aid and there was felt to be no need to change this.	
7	**Events Secretaries Report:** Fran in her absence had reported that the Tanfield Trip had gone well with 15 attending. Reminder letters had been sent out for Ad Gefrin. Kate reported that 10 had signed up for this. A register of interest for Wallington Christmas Afternoon Tea had been sent out on August 22nd and Fran had already had a very positive response. She will ask for a full payment by mid-October. There are still places available. Nissan trip is fully booked. John will talk to Andrew about arranging a Glasshouse tour as he has a contact.	FF JD
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Steve informed that a new German Conversation Group may be starting up as there is a waiting list. There is a waiting list for Tai Chi and Steve informed that the runner of the group, who is not a U3A member was not prepared to share the names of those on the waiting list. It was felt that this group was operating outside the u3a framework for groups. It was suggested that Steve gets back to the group and if they will not provide details of U3A members on the waiting list and not prepared to operate as a U3A group then they must leave and run independently.	SR
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Tim in his absence had nothing to report. In relation to the newsletter it was felt that some of the articles were too long and that group reports needed to be succinct. Barrie had been looking at the costs of producing the newsletter and Kate informed that the cost for 24 members was £566 for the year. Printing and postage had	

	increased significantly. It was agreed that those members who could not access the internet or email should be able to receive a newsletter but we were asking members to subsidise this. Suggestions included hand delivering the newsletter, printing on a colour laser printer. John suggested asking on the renewal form next year if members used email and could access the internet which was considered a good idea. Tim's thoughts on this were needed but it was felt that any change would need to be with the next newsletter editor.	JD TB
10	**Programme Secretary's Report:** 77 members attended the July monthly meeting. Ian reported that in relation to additional talks arranged by groups we had agreed to support the talk on St Cuthbert organised by the History Group. Total expenditure will be £155 and the plan is to raise money towards it by asking attendees to contribute £2. The group has a balance of £60 and U3A funds would cover the venue costs. 86 members have signed up for this talk in October. Ian had circulated details of another talk, an author event being organised by Julia Madgewick. It was agreed that we would support and cover the costs of the venue and refreshments which came to £105. Following discussion it was agreed that the Book group would need to ensure that they could cover the costs of the speaker and their expenses and for this talk it was to be £150 + vat. The group would collectively be responsible for this. A plan is therefore required to cover the costs which might mean asking attendees to give a specified amount to attend. It was clear the protocol for additional talks could be tightened up and needed to include a requirement for total costs of the event rather than funding and also include cancellation costs. It was also queried whether the author would be selling a book too. Ian to amend the protocol in light of the discussion and bring back to the next meeting. In the meantime Ian would need to speak to Julia and inform of author costs being the responsibility of the whole book group, involve them in decisions and demonstrate that additional costs can be met. Barrie suggested that it would be useful for Steve to talk about the protocol at the Convenors lunch in April. It was agreed that it was good to see that groups were coming forward with talks which should be encouraged. Each talk would be considered by the committee on its merits and wider interest to U3A members.	ID SR
11	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John informed that there had been 10 new members since the last meeting. John had sent out the membership renewal form yesterday and Kate informed that 80 had signed up so far. Tim is going to post out renewal forms with the newsletter to those who receive a hard copy. John did raise the issues that the membership renewal date had changed around the time of Covid and that September was not necessarily the best time of year and that it might be helpful to consider changing the renewal date to April. A date in November would be arranged for a new members meeting.	JD
12	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** There was no report in Michael's absence. Barrie stated that he was very pleased with the way the website is now looking.	
13	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie had voted on behalf of the Committee in relation to Third Age Trust elections.	
14	**A.O.B:** Barrie informed that videos of monthly meetings had resulted in 694 views, 57 per meeting. He asked if the committee felt that it was worthwhile to continue with videos and everyone agreed they should continue. He did consider that there was a need to train a member to use and produce the video and asked Steve who said he would consider it but would not commit as other demands on his time. Barrie reminded committee members to send in a report if they were unable to attend the meeting.	All
15	**Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 25th September at 2pm**	

Meeting ended at 15.30

Minutes Approved **Dated: 25th September 2025**