Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Thursday 26th February 2026 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Ian Diggory, Michael Brockway, Steve Rosario, Ann Atkinson,

No.		Action person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies received from John Dark, Andrew Rigg and Tim O'Brien	
2	**Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes were accepted as a true record.	
3	**Matters Arising:** No matters arising.	
4	**Chair's Report**: Barrie informed that he would keep the AGM formal business to a minimum and had produced a short report that he would read out. Kate would talk through the numbers and keep it brief. Ian informed that Colin would need to be away by 3.30pm and wished to give his presentation first. This was considered not to be a problem. In terms of another date to hold the monthly committee meeting it was agreed that the third Thursday of the month suited those present. Ann to update the calendar of meetings	AA
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Ann reported that she had been in touch with Chris Loftus the Archivist at Woodhorn about taking reports of committee meetings to be archived and other financial information. He said he would send a link to a One Drive folder to upload material that could be sent electronically. Kate has both hard copy and electronic financial information and Ann would liaise with Kate about taking the hard copy and providing the link to upload information. Ann spoke to Steve about keeping the email address for the Business Secretary and Newsletter Editor. Steve to send Ann details of how to transfer this to the new committee members. Ann referred to the letter received from our MP Joe Morris, informing that he was happy to provide letters of support for funding applications where appropriate, raise issues with government and would welcome the opportunity to meet to hear about our work and priorities for the future.	AA SR
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate informed that there was £20,000 in the bank and there were reserves of about £6000 which provided 6 months cover. There was some discussion about the amount of money we had but it was explained that the low point in terms of our funds which was in July was about £8,500 which was in line with our reserves.	
7	**Events Secretaries Report:** Andrew had sent in a report about the trips organised. The Durham trip to the Oriental Museum and Organ makers was taking place today and was fully subscribed as is the Nissan Trip on Friday 13th March. On the 6th May the evening visit in the Shire to a dairy farm that is totally automated and Egger Trip on 10th June are also fully subscribed. Harrogate Flower Show at Newby Hall on the 18th September is another trip planned and Chillingham Wild Cattle as a possibility. The Garden Party will take place on 1st July. Ann stated that she thought that the Harrogate Flower Show could attract members who	SR

	enjoyed a coach trip and may be reluctant to travel in a shared car and that there would likely be enough interest in this for a coach. Also to check with Andrew that emails of attendees for events were just going to attendees and reserves and not to all members. Barrie would speak to Andrew.	BM
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Two groups were not longer in existence the lifestyles video club and modern Greek. There was a new group called Espagna Viva which had 3 members currently. There were 60 groups at the moment but two groups were about to fold as they could not get a member of the group to take on the role of convenor, the two groups were Geology and Wildlife. Steve reported that he had checked 37 of the 60 groups to date and had identified some attendees who were not members and have since joined. For the Convenors lunch it had been decided that corkage was not worth the cost. A discussion on the event agreed a budget of £2,100, the meal would by £30 and wine and soft drinks would be provided. The expectation was that there would be 60 at the most attending including committee members. There would be topics for discussion at each table and a member of the committee would sit at each table, facilitate discussion and make a note of issues raised. Barrie would introduce and welcome convenors and explain what we wanted to hear from them. Kate asked Steve to check that the tea and coffee was included in the meal cost	SR
9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** In his absence Tim reported that he had met with Di and had discussed the production processes and had handed over files and had offered assistance if required. He had put the many photos he had on a memory stick and would pass it on to Michael for use on the website if needed. He thanked the committee members for their support.	TB
10	**Programme Secretary's Report:** 78 members attended the February monthly meeting and 68 had seen the video. Barrie asked that could the lights not be switched off as it is impossible to see the speaker on the video. Ian reported that he had most of the year booked up. He would follow up suggestions from Elizabeth Porter including Wendy Scott, Conrad Dickinson and Joseph Hillier for 2027. In relation to speakers fees it was confirmed that members are not paid and if external speakers want to give their fee to a charity it is their responsibility. We have a policy of not passing on funds to a charity. It was agreed to increase the fee offered to speakers from £50 to £60. Ian felt it was important to encourage groups to organise speakers which all members are invited to, we have had three such events recently. Ian would write an article in the newsletter to encourage this. Steve suggested that maybe holding a workshop on creative writing for example might be a way of encouraging new groups to form. Barrie informed that Wendy Gibson, who used to present on local evening news had been in touch about joining and may be interesting to approach as a speaker.	ID
11	**Membership Secretary's Report:** In his absence John reported that there continues to be a stream of new members – 13 in September, 12 in October, 7 in November, 6 in December, 17 in January and 12 in February. By 24th February there have been 95 new members in the past 12 months, since March 1, 2025, of whom only one does not have an email address. A coffee morning has been arranged for 11th March in the Prior's room at the Abbey. Steve and Barrie will be attending but any other committee member would be welcome to attend. 80 have been invited, that is members who have joined since the beginning of 2025 and have not been to one before. 18 have replied and 11 have confirmed so far and normally expect 20 – 25 attending. John is suggesting that another one is held in early May as some had other commitments but would like to attend.	JD
12	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Michael had nothing to report and informed that he would be out of the country from March 25th to the middle of April so if there was anything urgent needed on the website to get in touch before then. Steve would upload the newsletter webpages. Ann stated that the new committee members would need	SR

	to be given passwords to access to Beacon.	MB
13	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie had agreed to help with the Golf Day but costs are making in prohibitive so uncertain whether it will go ahead. The Third Age Trust survey is not being distributed to the membership at present, seen as intrusive.	
14	**A.O.B:** It was raised when the summer garden party on 1st July would be promoted. It was stated that we would use Try-Booking again which worked well. Steve would set this up. The importance of good signage to the venue was raised.	SR
15	**Date and time for next meeting: Thursday 19th March 2026 at 2pm**	

Meeting ended at 15.30

Minutes Approved **Dated: 19/03/2026**