Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting
held on Thursday 19th March 2026 at Hexham Golf Club

Present: Barrie Mellars, Kate Stephenson, Ian Diggory, Michael Brockway, Steve Rosario, John Dark, Diane Downie, Roger Hancock

No.		Action person
1	**Welcome and Apologies:** Apologies received from Andrew Rigg,	
2	**Minutes of last meeting:** Minutes were accepted as a true record. Copy to be sent to Website	RH
3	**Matters Arising:** No matters arising.	
4	**Chair's Report**: Barrie informed that he had set up a page for the Garden Party which would be going live on 1st May. The Racecourse had confirmed the same menu as last year for £25 per head inc. VAT & room hire. He had been approached by Rotary and & Unesco to borrow our PA equipment which had been agreed provided we did the setting up. Meeting Dates. After a general discussion it was agreed that Committee meetings would take place on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 2.00 pm at the Golf club (venue tbc) starting on 21st April. Sec to revise Meetings calendar	RH
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Roger reported that he had now taken over the old email address but would confirm when circulating draft minutes when approved by the Chair. He confirmed that the minutes etc for 2023/4/5 had been deposited with Woodhorn by Ann.	RH
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate informed that there was £20,000 in the bank and the accounts were in order.	
7	**Events Secretaries Report:** Andrew had sent in a report about the trips organised to Di for the next newsletter. The Nissan visit had gone well.	
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Steve reported the Convenors' lunch on 24th April invitations would be going out shortly. He would be arranging a table plan with a committee member allocated to each table. The Mah Jong group was being closed and but two others are 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. It was discussed whether the difficulty of finding a convenor was more a problem for big groups and the possibility of reduction in size might be considered. It was possible that the Geology one might split into 2 smaller groups which might help with initial enthusiasm. It was agreed that an article stressing the precept of what U3a stood for and its peer to peer nature should be considered for inclusion in the Newsletter.	SR

9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Di reported that the Newsletter was the main form of communication between the Committee and Members. Getting contributions could be difficult although it works well generally and is relied on for information. It was essential that there was good liaison between it and the website and Facebook. The danger of using copyright material was raised of which Di was well aware. There was discussion over the draft of the forthcoming issue and the new Noticeboard page was commended. Production and distribution. The current inclusion deadline was felt to be too short and it was agreed that it should be fixed as the 19th of each month the newsletter was published commencing with 19th March. Roger to amend calendar Following Di's paper circulated previously, after discussion it was agreed that the 17 copies requiring postal delivery should be printed by Di on the new printer she had acquired which would be transferred to U3a. She and Kate to sort out the arrangements. She would also buy paper and envelopes in bulk and 6 months' supply of stamps. These changes would result in much reduced costs with each copy costing £1.50 and £1 once the initial supply of ink had been used. The committee agreed to acquire the printer purchased by Di Downie newsletter editor for it to be a fixed asset of Tynedale U3A. It was agreed to ask those in receipt of the printed copy to opt in to continuing to do so as part of their renewal process. It was agreed not to produce a copy in January reducing the number to 10pa. Gift aid improvement. The renewal notice is to be amended to include an opt in box and Kate to write an article on gift aid for the July edition.	RH DD KS JD JD KS
10	**Programme Secretary's Report:** Ian reported that there had been 2 speakers at the AGM and the April meeting would be Nick Rossiter on AI. He had arranged speakers for the rest of the year. At the New Members' coffee meeting he had met someone who was a military historian who was willing to speak. He would be considered for next year.	
11	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John reported that there continues to be a stream of new members – 12 in February and 6 so far in March.. There have been 101 new members in the past 12 months, since March 1, 2025, of whom only one does not have an email address. The coffee morning for new members was attended by 26 new members and 3 prospective ones was very successful and well supported by Committee members. He would like to arrange another probably in early May as there were a number of new members unable to attend the last. He would arrange with the Abbey and notify Di for inclusion in the newsletter before 19th.	JD
12	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Michael had nothing to report and confirmed that he would be out of the country from March 25th to the middle of April. Steve would upload the newsletter webpages.	SR
13	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie would deal with any updates from U3a would bring any relevant issues to the committee.	
14	**A.O.B:** None	
15	**Date and time for next meeting: Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 2pm**	

Meeting ended at 15.32

Minutes Approved **Dated: 21/04/2026**