Charity Registration Number: 515733

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2026 at Hexham Golf Club

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

No.		Action person
1	**Apologies:** Apologies received from Steve Rozario and 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 commented that his main concern was accession planning. He had been approached by a possible candidate who he was interviewing next Tuesday. He circulated a proposed Job Description which was approved with a number of amendments. He had circulated details of the contenders for new Trustees to be appointed at the Trust AGM where we had one vote. Agreed he should cast the vote at his discretion.	BM BM
5	**Business Secretary's Report:** Roger reported he had moved and his address was now 6 Dickinson Apartments, Beaumont Street, Hexham NE46 3BW	RH
6	**Treasurer's Report:** Kate had provided up to date reports and confirmed that we had spent very little in August. However overall funds had leapt to £19.9k as subs had been coming in. 380 out of 600 have renewed so far. She reported a possible exposure of up to £75 in respect of the bus for the visit to Newby Hall. It was agreed we should cover this if necessary. She reported there had been no interest shown in finding a successor for her as Treasurer so far. Agreed there should be a further piece in the Newsletter and at the next meeting stressing that under Charity law Tynedale U3a could not operate unless a successor was appointed.	KS DD
7	**Events Secretary's Report:** Andrew had reported there would be no further visits this year after Harrogate and Ringtons was looking doubtful from their end. He was congratulated by the Committee on doing such a good job. The newsletter would contain a review of the events in a future edition.	DD
8	**Group Liaison Secretary's Report:** Steve had reported that Great Whittington and Matfen was up and running with 27 active members. Geosience had been launched but needed more members. A social media post might help. The provisional date of Friday 30th April was agreed for the next Convenors' lunch.	SR

9	**Newsletter Editor's Report:** Di reported that there had been an invitation to a True Crime workshop which might be of interest to members from a commercial organisation. Agreed it could be included in End Pieces as long as it was designated as a non U3a event. She to respond to them. A request to publicise Tynedale Hospice at Home's search for new Trustees had come too late for inclusion but it was agreed that Cathy Bates could speak for 10 minutes at the next Mart meeting. She reported that the September edition was able to be sent at the usual cost despite its extra size, not helped by two contributors sending to Tim's old email address. Members to be asked to check addresses published in every edition before submitting items.	DD ID DD
10	**Programme Secretary's Report:** Ian reported that there had been 102 members attending the talk on the North Eastern Inventions by Amanda Hepburn. No video was made **at the Speakers request**. October 6th will be Mike Wilkes on Newcastle Castle. November on Sleep & Dreams and December on the Carlisle to Newcastle railway. Ian was passing on the details for the rest of the year to Di. Family History groups proposed an open meeting discussing "using DNA as a basis for Family history" on October 20th. Agreed we to bear the cost of room hire and Barrie & Steve to help in setting up a booking system and assist with publicity on Facebook and in Newsletter. Barrie stated he would be happy to continue as Facebook editor after his retirement.	 ID BM SR
11	**Membership Secretary's Report:** John reported the Matfen WI group have joined and paid their subs in cash. This meant 27 new members in August. He confirmed sub requests had been sent out and 18 had resigned so far. Out of the 640 possibles 73% had responded but some had sent money and no form and others vice versa. The lack of form meant the Gift Aid status was not known. John to send reminders to the 90 people involved requesting the completion of the form. Di would send out letters to members receiving Newsletter by post who had not responded with the October edition. He indicated that it would be a good idea moving forward to be able to complete the form and pay in one go online. This should be possible albeit at some cost. He to discuss with Steve who has experience of this. Agreed that when a member resigns or dies John to inform convenors of groups they were members of. John indicated he needed to step down after 6 years in the job but would be happy to shadow his successor next year. Efforts to find such a person should be postponed until the spring.	 JD JD/DD JD/SR JD
12	**Beacon Administrator and Website Manager's Report:** Michael had unblocked a Beacon recipient who labelled messages as Spam. It was difficult to set up individual groups for circulation to interested parties only. He to discuss with Andrew how to find a workround.	MB/AR
13	**Regional and Third Age Trust**: Barrie stated there had been nothing worth circulating.	
14	**A.O.B:** Barrie had circulated the proposal from Bob Pullen to stage a concert in the spring which was approved in principle although an evening one was preferred possibly at the Abbey. More detail was required and Barrie to discuss it further with him. We would be open to cover room hire costs.	 BM

15	**Date and time for next meeting: Tuesday 20th October 2026 at tbc pm**	

Meeting ended at 3.10pm **Minutes Approved** **Dated: 20/10/2026**