

BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a
COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 19th May 2026
BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM

Present: Jane Haresign (Chair JH), Avril McDermott (AM), Rick Smok (RS), Coral Earney (CE), Judy Crowe (JC), Chris Skilbeck (CS), Val Sargent (VS)

- 1. Apologies:** Robert Waltz (RW), Audrey Taylor (AT), Eileen McKelvey (EM) Nick Dawes (ND),

- 2. Minutes for Approval and Matters Arising:** The Minutes of the April Committee Meeting, having been circulated to all Committee members for comments and amendments were approved. All agreed. Jane signed the Minutes and passed them to Rick for inclusion on the website. Matters arising to be covered in the meeting.

- 3. Chair's Report:** Jane reported that preparations for the Summer Tea Party are ongoing and will be covered at item 12.

She and Rick Smok (RS) had attended the u3a Neighbourhood meeting at Welton on Friday 15th May. Jane reported that it had been well attended. A member of the Regional Council was present, whose focus was on marketing to increase membership. This is covered at item 11.

- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Coral reported that the Current Account total on 30th April was £5242.03, and that of the Social Account was £979.04, plus £00.04 held in cash.

Coral reported that all invoices have been paid. The auditor has been on holiday but is now back.

- 5. Secretary's Report:** The action from the last meeting for Avril to send an email to AW explaining the HMRC problem and steps being taken to resolve the matter has been completed.

Confirmation has been received from u3a acknowledging receipt of the annual return advice of £1032 for 258 members as of 31st March 2026, as agreed at the last meeting.

The Third Age Trust (TAT) has emailed to advise that Branston u3a had been selected to take part in a member's profile and perspectives survey. TAT were asking for the survey to be shared with Branston and District members. Following discussion with the Chairman, the decision was taken to raise awareness of the survey via KIT and at the monthly meeting asking members to contact Jane or Avril if they wished to receive a survey. Avril and Jane had both completed a survey, and 5 had been sent out so far. The closing date is 31st May. Those completing the survey felt that it was not imposing and easy to complete.

Avril has fed back to RS regarding the invite for the Summer Tea.

- 6. Membership Secretary's Report:** Robert had sent apologies for the meeting. His report states that the current membership total is 272. The Village Hall in Branston has been booked for 29th October for a new members' meeting.

- 7. Welfare Officer's Report:** Audrey had sent apologies for the meeting but noted there is nothing to report.

- 8. Group Coordinator's Report:** Christine reported that there have been no signups for any groups at the last two monthly meetings.

One new member has been added to the singing for pleasure group, and three new members to STEM.

The croquet group start time has been changed to 13.30 from 13.00.

It was confirmed at the meeting that it is still 17.00 finish.

Christine has been informed that Phil Applewhite is 'now the STEM Beacon person'. She is awaiting clarification regarding convenors of the STEM group.

9. Programme Secretary's Report: Nick has sent apologies for the meeting along with his report. He has sent the usual monthly meeting teaser email for the April talk by Martin Dickinson and emailed to thank him for the well-received presentation.

Nick has contacted Sally Elkington at Sleaford u3a as she'd offered to send details of their speakers. He reported that having sent 3 years' worth of our speakers to them, unfortunately so far PC issues have meant Sally has been unable to reciprocate and send theirs.

Speakers are now booked for January, February, March, April, May and June 2027.

Nick sent apologies for the monthly May meeting but says he will send out the usual meeting reminder. He has been in contact with Phil Drabble and has passed the relevant information to Jane and Coral.

10. Meet and Greet: Rick has purchased two sashes for u3a greeters. They are yellow and blue with the words 'u3a Welcome'. The cost for the two sashes is £17.68.

It was agreed to ask for Meet and Greet volunteers from within the u3a. A sign-up sheet outlining dates and details of volunteers will be needed, and Rick agreed to produce the necessary paperwork.

Action RS

11. Neighbourhood meeting feedback: Jane and Rick stated that the main focus of the meeting was on how to attract more members, as it was reported that membership is falling in most u3as. It is noted that our own numbers have stayed static, but it would be good if

we could attract more. Facebook (FB) had been identified as a means of attracting new members. We post u3a information on the FB village groups, but it may be of benefit to ask the membership if anyone is prepared to set up a Branston & District u3a FB site with a moderator.

There was some disappointment expressed by RS that other items being discussed dated back to 2024 and seem not to have moved on.

The regional rep highlighted concerns regarding copyright which is covered at item 16.

It was felt that the meeting was worth attending to gain ideas from others, such as a good magazine being produced by Lincoln u3a.

The next Neighbourhood meeting is November 20th in Saxilby.

12. Summer Tea Party update: Rick has put together an invite to this event which has been shared with Chairman and Secretary for comment. Jane will send out an email to the membership with the poster and separate order form attached. A copy of the poster will also be included in KIT and on the monthly slide show. It will also be posted on the website.

Numbers will be limited to 80 people.

Payment can be made by BACs, cheque or cash, and ways to pay will be clearly outlined on the poster and order form.

Action JH

13. Beer Festival: Rick has spoken to the Parish Council and the Groundman at the Pavillion regarding the moving of our cabinet for the festival. He has been informed that an outside Marquee will be housing the beer with the pavilion only being used for toilet facilities and as a first aid station. They see no need for us to move our cabinet.

14. Pat Testing: Rick informed the committee that Bryn has arranged for an electrician to carry out PAT testing on 25th June at the Pavillion. He will need all Laptop power supplies to be at the Pavillion for testing.

It was noted that the date for PAT testing falls within the time that we had been advised that the Pavillion would not be available due to the beer festival. Jane will contact the Parish Council to clarify if availability of the Pavilion has changed with the use of the Marquee as discussed in item 13

Action JH

15. Clarke Avenue Community Centre: Rick had been invited by the residents of Clarke Avenue to meet with them and the council to discuss usage of the resident's community room. The main concern was that the council were not keeping the rooms structurally maintained and part of the residents rent is for upkeep of the rooms. At present the room can only be booked in 4 hourly increments at a cost of £32. The council agreed to bring this down to 2 hours although no cost was discussed. An online booking page will be made available soon.

As room availability can be a problem for group meetings this is worth looking at, but it needs to be noted that residents will take priority when booking so there may be days when they are not available.

16. Copyright and Licenses: The u3a has highlighted concerns with the use of images or articles on websites that could be in breach of copyright. A Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) license is available to purchase from u3a costing approximately £72 which will cover us in this matter. It was agreed that a CLA license should be purchased in July when it becomes available.

Action RS

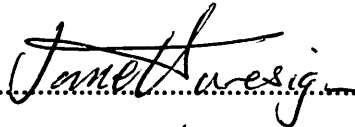
AOB: The committee authorized Bryn to purchase a new cabinet for the locked storage of u3a equipment in Branston Pavillion.

Action BL

**Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 16th June 2026,
Branston Sports Pavilion, 2pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.20pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record


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Date..... 16/6/2026