

BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a
COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 16TH JUNE 2026
BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM

Present: Jane Haresign (Chair JH), Avril McDermott (AM), Coral Earney (CE), Chris Skilbeck (CS), Rick Smok (RS), Nick Dawes (ND), Eileen McKelvey (EM), John Jackson (Observer JJ).

- 1. Apologies:** Robert Waltz, Audrey Taylor, Val Sargent, Judy Crowe.
- 2. Minutes for Approval and Matters Arising:** The Minutes of the May meeting had previously been circulated by Avril to the Committee for comments and amendments. The Minutes presented for the Committee Meeting were agreed and a copy was signed by Jane for inclusion by Rick on the website. Any matters arising were dealt with on the agenda.
- 3. Chair's Report:** Jane's report mentioned the Summer Tea Party and Copyright and Licences issues, to be dealt with at Items 10 and 12. She also reported that she had emailed details of our Monthly Meetings to the Sheepwash Times, Heathview and Limespring, and she hoped these would appear in this month's magazines. Re posting on Facebook, she thought this would be a good idea, but we would need advice on setting up our own page, so this could be something for the proposed neighbourhood event which had been discussed at the Neighbourhood Meeting.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Coral reported that the balance of the Main Account at 31st May was £5254.17, and that of the Social Account was £1053.51. She said there seemed to be progress towards HMRC issuing the awaited reimbursement of last year's Gift Aid, but no payment had yet been received, but Coral had received confirmation that it had been submitted. Rick commented that it was important that the current claim be submitted as soon as possible.

Cora had still received no word from the auditor as to when the audited accounts would be returned, so that an EGM (Extraordinary General Meeting) could be arranged to approve the audit and the selection of an auditor for the next audit in time for the 2027 AGM. An auditor would have to be found but there were no current potential candidates. Coral and Jane reported that payments were coming in for the Summer Tea Party.

- 5. Secretary's Report:** Avril had nothing to report.
- 6. Membership Secretary's Report:** As he would be absent, Robert had forwarded his report to the Committee. The total membership remained at 272, there had been no new members, no resignations, no late renewals, and just one prospective new member.
- 7. Welfare Officer's Report:** Audrey had advised in advance that there was nothing to report.
- 8. Group Coordinator's Report:** Chris had nothing to report.
- 9. Programme Secretary's Report:** Nick reported that he had sent out the usual monthly teaser email for the May talk by Phil Drabble, and had emailed his thanks for his talk, which had been very well received. Nick said he was frustrated that he had still not received speaker lists from Saxilby and Sleaford u3a's, although he had sent Branston's some time ago under an agreement reached at a Neighbourhood Meeting. Rick said he would raise the issue at the next Neighbourhood Meeting. He had confirmed 'Blokes Who Sing' for the Fish and Chip Social on 17th November. He was awaiting details of their fee, which Avril said she would chase up. January to June 2027 speakers, plus October, were all now booked. Nick requested authorisation to pay the potential July speaker their fee of £125, including travel. As the average monthly fee for the speakers already booked was only £67, it was agreed by the Committee to pay this higher amount, as the average would then be £83.

10. Summer Tea Party Update: Jane reported that she had met the games firm supplying the games at the event and had got a good idea of how the games are set up, and had added games to her original order. It was agreed that the games would be delivered at 12pm, and Rick would keep an eye on them. We would request they be taken away at 3pm when the afternoon tea was served. There had so far been just over 30 responses, so Rick would issue a reminder at the June Monthly Meeting, Jane would send a reminder email to all members, and James would be asked to include a reminder in KiT. **Action JH RS**

The food would be served at the tables by the catering company, but we would set the tables after tea and coffee had been served on arrival. On arrival members would be issued with a free raffle ticket.

11. PAT Testing: Rick reported that Bryn Jenkins, the Equipment Officer, had arranged for another electrician to carry out the testing on Thursday 25th June. Holders of laptops would have to arrange with Bryn for the relevant equipment to be passed to him. It was agreed that some older laptops would need to be replaced, just keeping the one relatively recently purchased from John Tyerman, and there was some discussion about the disposal of these items. Currys and WEEE Recycle in Branston were suggested as possibilities for their recycling.

12. Copyright and Licences: Rick reported that concerns had been raised about whether we were allowed to share on our website the information provided by apps such as Map My Walk, used by the walking groups, and to print copies of music used by the singing and music groups. Jane said her belleplate group had decided to each buy a book of music which contained 60 well known songs in a format ideal for belleplates, and to print free items off the internet for purely personal, non commercial use. Because copyright is such a grey area Rick had decided to investigate, and obtain any necessary permissions, to prevent any possible future problems, as the trustees of the u3a would be held responsible for any breach of copyright, not the individual who had committed the breach. He reported that he had now received the update ref CLA for 26/27, for a

comprehensive licence, and passed the payment details to Coral at the meeting for the payment of £72 by 1st August. This would become an annual payment, in order to maintain the licence. **Action CE**

- 13. Fish and Chips:** Rick reported that he had started designing the poster and order form for the event. It was decided that the initial flyer in August would not include the price as prices were currently speculative. James Hewson had acquired current prices for information but it was agreed we needed a price for a smaller fish and chips, not a SMALL fish and chips, so that we could set a price to include covering the cost of desserts and a tip for Dylans Plaice. Rick would ask James to enquire. There would be a free raffle, a ticket issued to each member as they arrived, and desserts would be made available to each sitting in turn, to prevent anyone on an earlier sitting taking more than their share.

Action RS.

- 14. Christmas Meal:** Prior to the Committee Meeting Avril had sent details of the menu offered by the Bentley, and the price for a 2 or 3 course meal. There was a choice of 3 starters, mains and desserts, and a complimentary mince pie with coffee. The 2 course option was £28 and 3 courses were £32. It was decided to agree the 2 course option of mains and desserts, to avoid people having to wait to eat while some had starters, and to charge £29, to include a £1 tip. Avril was requested to confirm with the Bentley that we would only pay for the number we confirmed as attending, as she had originally requested for 70-80. Rick would send a flyer to members in September advising a maximum number of 80, the due deposit in September being paid out of u3a funds, until monies were received from members. The final amount and numbers were due 14 days before.

Coral requested that members be advised to pay for each event separately, not to include more than one payment at the same time, whether cash, cheque or BACS payment, to avoid confusion.

15. Moving Membership Renewal Date: Rick reported that he had been in contact with the Beacon Help Desk about changing our membership renewal date, and they are the ones who will have to change our Membership Renewal from 1st February to 1st April. He read out the details of their reply and the actions they would take. Robert would have to amend the monthly payment details on Beacon, although this could be challenging, as Robert has indicated that he would be stepping down from the Membership Secretary role, so a replacement to learn the ropes in advance was urgently needed. All were agreed that Rick should liaise with his contact at Beacon to facilitate the change.

Action RS

16. Meet and Greet Feedback: Judy had welcomed visitors at the May Monthly Meeting, but was unable to attend the Committee Meeting to report. Jane would meet and greet and Avril stand in for Robert at the June Monthly Meeting.

AOB: Jane reported there was a problem with the keys to the u3a cabinet in the Pavilion. She had lost hers, and had taken a spare, but it seemed to be random who else had a key at any one time. It was agreed it was a group convenor's responsibility to temporarily give their key to someone else, if required, and to be aware of where that key was.

Avril reported that she had received an email addressed to all Chairs, Vice Chairs, Secretaries and Treasurers of the u3a about various items of interest, and she was of the opinion that these should be shared to members, which she was happy to do. The Committee agreed.

Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 21st July 2026, Branston Sports Pavilion, 2pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.45pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record

Janet Hawerij

Date 21-07-2026

Treasurers report June 2026

Period 01.06.26 - 30.06.26

BARCLAYS BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 01.06.26	£5,254.17
May Income	£191.08
May Expenditure	-£264.50
Balance to 31.05.26	<u>£5,180.75</u>

Barclays Bank Current account	£5,180.75
No outstanding cheques - speaker	£0.00
	<u>£5,180.75</u>

BARCLAYS BANK SOCIAL ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 01.06.26	£1,053.51
Comprises	
Art appreciation	
Heritage	
Croquet	
Social Fund	
Income to date	£252.00
Expenditure to date	
Balance to 31.05.26	<u>£1,305.51</u>
Comprises	
Art appreciation	
Croquet	
Social Fund	
Summer Social	

Barclays Bank Social Account	<u>£1,305.51</u>
Outstanding cheques	