

BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a

COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 21ST JULY 2026

BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM

Present: Jane Haresign (JH Chair), Avril McDermott (AM), Coral Earney (CE), Robert Waltz (RW), Rick Smok (RS), Chris Skilbeck (CS), Audrey Taylor (AT), Judy Crowe (JC), John Jackson (JJ), Eileen McKelvey (EM).

- 1. Apologies:** Val Sargent, Nick Dawes.
- 2. Minutes for Approval and Matters Arising:** The Minutes, having been circulated to the Committee for amendments and comments, were agreed by all as correct, and were signed by Jane for inclusion on the website. There were no matters arising.
- 3. Chair's Report:** Jane reported that her main focus for the last month had been the summer tea party. There were now 61 people on the list, with the closing date being 28th July.
She had also been in contact with the Village Hall at the request of Lynne Snelson, who had reported that several people had tripped when entering the foyer. The Village Hall had agreed to put a notice on the door warning of the risk.
- 4. Treasurer's Report:** Coral reported that the balance of the Main Account was £5180.75, and that of the Social Account was £1305.51.
Regarding the year accounts, the auditor had checked with the Charities Commission the requirements for these accounts. He noted that we do not need to present profit and loss accounts as the u3a income is well below the threshold. He had inspected the income and expenditure and was to sign to say he was happy that the monies were accounted for. Coral hoped to have a copy to bring to the next Committee Meeting.
He did confirm that there is a requirement for an annual return to be filed each year, which has been done consistently.
Coral queried whether we needed to amend our constitution regarding naming an auditor, but Rick confirmed we did not as an auditor would be proposed at the AGM. This year an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM)

would be required to approve the accounts and to propose an auditor for 2026-27.

Coral confirmed that the Gift Aid claim for last year had been authorised and the money had been paid into the u3a account. Coral and Rick were due to meet Wednesday 22nd July to arrange to send the Gift Aid claim for the current year.

Coral confirmed that a new locker had been bought for the Pavilion, and extra keys cut, for a total cost of £128.99. Branston Village Hall had invoiced for the next 3 months, and all outstanding invoices had been paid.

5. Secretary's Report: Avril reported that the Bentley had agreed to our requests regarding the Christmas Meal.

She had checked on the Charities Commission website, regarding the latest date for the submission of our accounts, which is 10 months following the year end – 30th November 2026. As the November Monthly Meeting would be a social event, we would need the EGM to held in either September or October to meet the deadline. After discussion, it was agreed it would be held on 22nd September.

Avril reported that 2 u3a's had proposed a resolution to be presented at the Third Age Trust AGM, 'calling on the Third Age Trust Board to conduct, within 6 months, a formal consultation with u3a's on Trust involvement in advocacy, campaigning and public policy outside the promotion of lifelong learning, education and support for member u3a's. The Board shall publish the responses together with a reasoned statement of its conclusions and proposed actions by 1 May 2027, and report to the 2027 AGM on how these conclusions have been acted upon'. U3a's can submit amendments to this resolution by 30th July 2026.

After some discussion we agreed that the u3a should not be regarded as Social Workers, but should purely offer opportunities to those who wanted to, and were able to, partake. Judy proposed that we support the amendment.

Agreed. Avril will reply with our response by the due date. **Action AM**

Avril had forwarded details of a potential new member, a recently widowed lady, who had contacted her, to Robert. Avril had informed her, from her own experience, of the support the u3a could offer.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Robert reported that the current membership total was 276. There had been 5 new members since the last

meeting, and there were 2 prospective members. No resignations. Sadly, one of our members, Viv Smith, a member of the Visits Group, had passed away.

- 7. Welfare Secretary's Report:** Audrey reported that she had sent a card of condolence to Viv Smith's family. Jane informed her that another member had suffered a fall, and she would let Audrey know how she was progressing before she sent a card. Audrey asked to be kept informed of any welfare issues members may have so that she could make contact. Robert said he would investigate which members were actually active in groups or at meetings, to hopefully catch up on anyone who may not have been seen for a while. It was proposed that members be asked in KiT to pass on details of anyone they knew who should be contacted. **Action JH, RW**
- 8. Group Coordinator's Report:** Chris reported that she had added one new member to the Scrabble Group.
She had been having problems with the Croquet Group information on Beacon, and was waiting for responses from the Convenors before contacting the Beacon help desk. Beacon is not showing the correct number of members or the correct numbers of members waiting that she is aware of, so she will contact the Convenors to clarify the situation as soon as possible. **Action CS**
- 9. Programme Secretary's Report:** In Nick's absence Jane reported that he had sent the usual Monthly Meeting teaser for the June talk by Ron Oxby.
All speakers for the 2027 Monthly Meetings had now been booked, with an average fee of £55 for the 10 months booked.
He had notified Coral that the July speaker required a cheque for £65, but he would be at that meeting. However, he gave apologies for the August Committee Meeting.
- 10. Summer Tea Party update:** Jane went through the list of tasks to be dealt with prior to, and during, the Tea Party, and Committee Members volunteered to cover them all. It was agreed there would be a Committee Meeting on 18th August to discuss the final details and ensure nothing had been missed.
- 11. PAT Testing update:** Rick reported the PAT testing had been carried out and Bryn had received the certificate from the electrician. It had been paid for and the certificate would be given to Avril to retain.

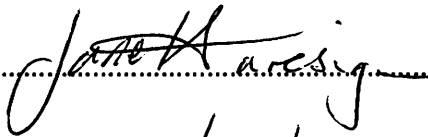
- 12. Copyright and Licences:** Rick has removed all maps and descriptions from the Walking Group pages, to ensure we abide by the rules. In future all new maps will have the required text by the app we use
- 13. Changing Membership Renewal Date:** Rick reported that the Beacon team had now amended our membership year and the Membership Secretary had updated the membership payment details.
- 14. Out of Date Laptops update:** Rick had contacted Curry's with reference to their scheme "Cash for Trash". Unfortunately, the vouchers we would have received would have had to be exchanged within 14 days. Instead, he had now given the 3 laptops to Weee Recycle, and he was awaiting a confirmation email to say that all data had been erased and that they had been disposed of. That email would go to the Treasurer. He also gave Coral the details of those laptops, to be deleted from the Assets Register. **Action CE**
- 15. Fish and Chip Dinner update:** Rick had designed a poster, which he had already sent to the Committee, and he has designed an order form. After some discussion it was agreed to hold the price at £16, the same as 2 years ago, made possible by a **smallER** fish and chip portion being offered, after complaints that the sizes portions were too big, although Dylan's Plaice were due to give a final price for the fish and chips in the next couple of weeks. It was agreed the poster would be issued at the beginning of September. There would be 3 sittings, but seating would not be allocated in advance.
- 16. Christmas Dinner Menu update:** Rick was in the process of starting a poster for the meal when he noticed certain allergy codes that he was unfamiliar with, and he had had little success in identifying them. Avril will ask the Bentley for clarification. **Action AM**

AOB: Robert reported that the New Members Meeting had been scheduled for Monday 26th October. The Village Hall had been booked from 9.30-12.00. The format would be: introduction to Committee and Convenors, Individual tables for Activity Groups with a view to recruitment, plus, as last year, how to log on to and get involved in national u3a activities. Also, possibly, an aside for the less tech savvy, a teach- in on using computers/laptops/mobile phones for this purpose. It was agreed to go ahead, in spite of the poor attendance at the last meeting.

Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 18th August 2026, Branston Sports Pavilion, 2pm.

There being no further business. The meeting closed at 3.10pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record

.....


Date.....
18/08/2026

Treasurers report July 2026

Period 01.07.26 - 31.07.26

BARCLAYS BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 01.07.26	5180.75
July Income	615.35
July Expenditure	-345.99
Balance to 30.06.26	<u>5450.11</u>

Barclays Bank Current account	5450.11
No outstanding cheques - speaker	0.00
	<u>5450.11</u>

BARCLAYS BANK SOCIAL ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 01.07.26	1305.51
Comprises	
Afternoon Tea	240.00
Art appreciation	£14.08
Heritage	£0.00
Croquet	£475.82
Social Fund	£296.59
Income to date	
Expenditure to date	
Balance to 31.07.26	<u>1213.51</u>
Comprises	
Art appreciation	£14.08
Croquet	£143.82
Social Fund	£275.61
Summer Social	£540.00
	£973.51

Barclays Bank Social Account	1225.51
Unpresented cheque Parish Council	-52.00
Cash sumThank you tip	40.00
	<u>1213.51</u>