

BRANSTON & DISTRICT u3a
COMMITTEE MEETING TUESDAY 18th August 2026
BRANSTON SPORTS PAVILION 2PM

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

Apologies: Nick Dawes (ND), Eileen McKelvey (EM).

In the absence of EM, AM recorded the minutes for this meeting

1. **Minutes for Approval and Matters Arising:** The Minutes, having been circulated to the Committee for comments were approved by all and signed by Jane, before being passed to Rick for inclusion on the website. There were no matters arising which would not be covered in the agenda.
2. **Chair's Report:** Jane reported that the games firm for the summer social has been paid and will set up the games at 12 noon on next Tuesday 25th August, and pick them up again at 3pm.

Jane also reported that the Bell plates group meeting on 22nd July had a problem with young lads entering the pavilion through the front door which had been left open as it was a hot day. They did leave when asked, and the door was locked. However, there then followed antisocial activity outside so the police were called. There was some vandalism which was caught on the Parish Council (PC) CCTV and items posted on Facebook by the PC. Jane did report that fortunately; the next session was trouble free.

It was agreed that as an outcome of this intrusion consideration needs to be given to the interior door being kept locked, with the key left in, when using the pavilion. This needs to be communicated to group convenors who use the pavilion

Action CS

- 3. Treasurer's Report:** Coral reported that the balance of the Main Account was £ 5450.11 and that of the Social Account was £1213.51. With 4p held in cash this gives a total holding of £6663.66. This was noted to be a very positive cash position.

Coral reported that Paul Reeve, an accountant has signed off the income and expenditure as a true record, and additionally, Paul has agreed to look through the accounts at the next year end. Avril requested a copy of the signed off paperwork so it can be sent out to members along with the EGM invites

Action CE

Coral reported a quiet month, with the copyright licence for the coming year being paid to the U3A Trust, along with ongoing invoices for use of the Village Hall and payment for the PAT testing,

Coral stated that she and Rick and completed the Gift Aid forms on the government website. She has been informed that the Gift Aid process may take up to five weeks and is still progressing.

- 4. Secretary's Report:** Avril reported a quiet month.

An email sent out to the membership outlining national Trust initiatives had led to several members reporting they were unable to open the attachment. Avril had responded by sending these members a link to the information which appears to have resolved the issue.

- 5. Group Coordinator's Report:** Chris reported that the name of the Music and Dance Group has been changed to Disco Divas, as they feel it is a more accurate description of the group.

Following on from the anomaly with the Croquet Group numbers on Beacon, a ticket has been raised with Beacon Support, with a screenshot of the relevant line on Beacon being sent to them to aid with the query. Chris is awaiting a response.

- 6. Membership Secretary's Report:** There are now 276 members.

Robert reported that he had been looking at the data and had found that 27 u3a members undertook no group activities. It is uncertain whether these members attend the monthly meetings. Additionally, Robert informed that over 100 members attend just one group, 64 members are assigned to two groups, 31 to three groups and 22 to four groups. A few members are assigned to even more.

A question was asked as to whether the gender distribution within the committee, comprising 7 female and 3 male members, was representative of the total membership. Robert did not have this information to hand but did state that there are currently 136 individual members.

- 7. Programme Secretary's Report:** Nick had sent apologies for the meeting. In his absence Jane referred to his report to the committee. He has sent the usual monthly meeting teaser email for the July talk by Mike Ogden and followed this up with a thank you message to Mike for the excellent talk. The committee also agreed that the talk on skyscrapers had been interesting and well received.
- 8. Welfare Officer's Report:** Audrey reported no activity since the last meeting. She repeated her request to be informed if a welfare intervention is needed.
- 9. Finalise details for Tea Party:** Jane confirmed that 63 people are expected at the event. Two people have had to send apologies due to a 'must do' appointment. The committee agreed that as we are charged for actual numbers a reimbursement should be made.

The committee all have assigned tasks for the day as agreed at the last meeting. Jane was asked to send an email to all members outlining these agreed tasks.

Action JH

Any left-over tea, coffee or other refreshments purchased for this event will be kept for the fish and chip supper in November.

It was agreed that all appears to be in place for the event. Committee members were reminded to be at the Village Hall by 12 noon.

10. Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM): The EGM to sign off last year's accounts and to agree an auditor for this year will be held prior to the monthly meeting on September 22nd.

Avril will send out invites and agenda, along with the signed off paperwork from Coral to all members of the u3a as laid out in the constitution.

Sign off sheets will be required on the day to ensure the EGM is quorate.

Rick is working on the slides for the event. Jane will open proceedings and then pass on to Coral, followed by voting. The EGM is expected to be short, probably lasting no more than 5 minutes.

The September meeting with our speaker will follow on from the short EGM, and normal admission charges will apply for the monthly meeting.

11. Fish and Chip Update: We still await definite prices for the meals, but the agreed fee of £16 will cover expenses. A flyer and order sheet for the event will be shared with James to go into KIT at the end of August, along with details being posted on the website and copies available at the monthly meetings. September 30th is the agreed end date for orders and payment. It was noted that most members are now paying for events by BACs, but these arrangements will allow for cash and cheques.

As with past Fish and Chip events, there will be three sittings for meals which will be set based on when orders for the event are received from members. Rick will set up a Beacon poll for sittings enabling emails to be sent to communicate times to attendees.

Action RS

There will be a great deal of rubbish generated, and Committee members will be assigned to the third sitting, enabling them to collect rubbish after the first two sittings and at the end.

Sticky labels will be produced outlining the member's name for each order and these will be placed on the relevant boxes at Dhillon's Plaice ready for distribution back at the village hall.

The dinner will be followed by entertainment from 'Blokes who sing'.

12. Christmas Dinner update: The signed off paperwork has been shared with the Bentley, and all is in place at this time. Details relating to the

Christmas event will need to be prepared and distributed to members once the Fish and Chip ordering processes have been finalised. Rick asked about the allergy codes. Avril apologised, she had been so intent on getting the required paperwork to the Bentley and ensuring all was in order that this matter had slipped her mind. She will contact the Bentley to clarify the codes.

Action AM

13. AOB:

Rick informed the committee that he has received the Certificate of Destruction from WEEE – Recycle UK, confirming that all data has been destroyed from the old u3a laptops sent there for disposal.

A question was asked regarding reference to racism in our constitution. This is addressed in our Equity and Diversity policy (EDP), a section of which is copied below:

All members of the U3A shall treat one another and members of the public with dignity and respect and value them regardless of their gender, age, nationality, race, sexual orientation, health condition, disability, social/employment status, religion and /or beliefs, marital, single or partnership status.

The question was asked as the member had observed a situation they had found uncomfortable. It was noted that if any member has concerns relating to the behaviour of another member then they should look to address the matter at the time in a polite manner. Consistent actions by a member in contravention of the EDP is not acceptable.

Robert reminded the Committee about the New Members meeting on Monday 26th October and the need for reminders for the Group Convenors so we can get as many there as possible. It was noted that reminders from Robert and Chris cover different aspects but may be seen as duplication.

Action RW and CS

Date of the Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 15th September 2026, Branston Sports Pavilion 2pm.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 3.04pm.

Signed by the Chair as a true record.

Jane Horesig

Date *15/09/2026*

Treasurers report Aug 2026

Period 01.08.26 - 31.08.26.26

BARCLAYS BANK CURRENT ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 01.08.26	5450.11
Aug Income	7.00
Aug Expenditure	
Balance to 31.08.26	<u>5457.11</u>

Barclays Bank Current account	5457.11
No outstanding cheques - speaker	0.00
	<u>5457.11</u>

BARCLAYS BANK SOCIAL ACCOUNT

Opening Balance 01.08.26	1505.51
--------------------------	---------

Comprises

Art appreciation	£14.08	
Heritage	£0.00	
Croquet	£143.82	
Social Fund	£296.59	
Income to date		48.00
Expenditure to date		995.00
Balance to 30.06.26		<u>462.51</u>

Comprises

Art appreciation	£14.08
Croquet	£143.82
Social Fund	£275.61
Summer Social	£540.00
	£973.51

Barclays Bank Social Account

		<u>1168.51</u>
Outstanding cheques		
Parish council - Croquet	52.00	
Sues Tableware - Afternoon Tea	630.00	
Refund cheque	24.00	
Less outstanding	706.00	462.51