BRACKLEY & DISTRICT U3A
Minutes of the Committee Meeting
3rd September 2026
at Brackley Rugby Club

Action

Attending Janet Blunden (JB) Chair**,** John Underwood (JU) Treasurer, Conrad Dower (CD) Business Secretary, Alison Williams (AW) Groups Co-ordinator, John Moore (JM) Programme Officer, Alison Simmonds (AS) Publicity Officer, Kathy Hodges (KH) Minutes Secretary, Ken Smith Honorary President

Welcome JB welcomed the Committee to the meeting and particularly Alison Simmonds, who has agreed to become our Publicity Officer, a role she has held in the past.

Apologies Elaine Yates (EY) Membership Secretary

Minutes of last Meeting Approved with no amendments

Matters Arising None

REPORTS

Chair

We are now in possession of our poppy wreath which still has to be paid for.

JB has contacted Magdalen School to ascertain whether they have an A Level student who would be willing to provide accompaniment to the Singing for Fun group but was told by the Head of Music at the school that music is not currently being studied at A Level. Apparently Ruth is managing at the moment but JB will raise this at the Speaker Meeting. **JB**

The Welcome Pack has been printed at a cost of £70.30 – the invoice to be chased. AS was given a copy and, in answer to her question, was told that the Pack would probably need to be updated in May next year after the AGM.

JB has provided a jobs list to the Member Liaison team which is working well. JB thanked EY for taking over the leadership of the team.

JB has emailed Gill Zachar to ascertain the situation regarding the running of the Travel Group but is still to receive a reply.

It was agreed, after discussion, to continue holding the Committee Meetings at the Rugby Club. As we only meet for around an hour JU will contact the Rugby Club to alter our booking from two hours to one. **JU**

Alan Burns from West Northants Council sent a document to JB regarding an age friendly parish guide and wondered if the u3a would be interested in being involved. JB will attend the initial meeting. **JB**

JB will ask Mike Kirkham to put information on the website she has received, which is asking local people to object to the building of a large number of new homes at Turweston. **JB/MK**

JB has received a request from Katherine House for our members to help with a bucket collection, which she will ask Mike Kirkham to put on the website. **JB/MK**

Treasurer

The total in the account at 31 August was £11,998.78 with receipts of £269.00 and payments totalling £257.49.

JU agreed JM`s request to put the latest total in the account at the bottom of his report rather than at the top. **JU**

Business

The annual return has been sent to u3a Headquarters and the new constitution has been sent. The Charity Commission has been furnished with our up to date information.

Members

We have 3 new members since the last Committee Meeting including 1 associate member and 1 member has passed away. This makes a total of 479 members, 33 of which are associate members and there are still 6 members without internet.

EY has asked Mike Kirkham and Janet Whitby to remove the old membership form from the website.

Programme

JM expressed disappointment with the recent speaker. The September meeting will have two speakers representing the Food Bank and Northants Police regarding

Fraud and Scams. AS would like details for the poster. **JM**
JB would like members to be encouraged to attend.

Groups

Art Group. Susan Lilley received a good response to her request for art materials and is hoping this will generate interest in the group. AW will put a poster on the notice board at the Speaker Meeting. **AW**

Croquet. AW has received good response for the croquet group to move to the rear of the Leisure Centre. The £200 has been repaid to the Cricket Club.

Strength and balance. This new group has received good feedback.

Ballroom Dancing. AW has sent an email to members regarding the resumption of the group after the summer break. Numbers are needed to cover the cost of the tutor`s fees of £50 per session.

Publicity

AS has a copy of her role description. She plans to amend and correct the poster. AS has requested copies of Focus Brackley and Life in Brackley magazines which she does not have delivered to her home. JB will give AS information regarding the Town Hall publication. **JB**

JB mentioned that there is a notice board at Egerton Hall.
AS has ideas going forward.

Website

Mike circulated his usual report to the Committee. In it he mentioned that he felt it important that a laptop and projector should be available at every Speaker Meeting to overcome the problem of a Speaker bringing equipment which could not be used. MK has the u3a laptop and he is prepared to donate an old projector which he has ascertained can be used with the laptop. It was agreed this was a good idea and hopefully the equipment can be stored at the Baptist Church. The Committee thanked Mike Kirkham for donating the projector. **MK**

Any Other Business

Roving Mike. JM is to investigate if either u3a or the BBC owns a roving mike. If one is not found then it was agreed that one should be purchased. **JM**

Christmas Lunch Entertainment. It had been suggested to JB that entertainment be provided at our Christmas Lunch. It was agreed that this was impractical and not necessary.

Regarding the Christmas Lunch, JB will contact Colin Gillies to discuss the possibility of 2 courses being offered as well as 3. **JB**

Group Finances. CD suggested that we as a u3a should support any struggling groups in any way necessary, including financially. This was agreed. AW kindly agreed to monitor the groups and bring to the Committee`s attention any concerns raised. **AW**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.15am

Date of next Committee Meeting: **Thursday, 1st October, 2026**

Minutes taken by KH

Approved by 