

Pocklington and District u3a

Minutes of Committee Meeting

19th May 2026, 10.00am

Pocklington Rugby Club

Present: Les Smith (Chair), Neil Barrett (Vice-Chair), Richard Antcliff (Treasurer), Rosemarie Kennedy (Secretary), Moira Laverack (President), Simon Eggleston, Christina Burn (left at 11am), Margaret Stubbs, Simon Graham, Gerry Hutchinson, David Hebden

Apologies: Pauline Slater, Michael May, Polly Fothergill

1. **Welcome:** (LS). Les welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Simon Graham, the new committee member.
2. **Minutes of Previous Meeting:**
 - Under Item 4 (paragraph 2) nominations for Committee Members, the proposer and seconder were amended to read PS as Proposer and RA as seconder.
3. **Matters Arising from the minutes:**
 - LS thanked the Secretary (RK) for organising all the paperwork prior to the AGM.
 - MS commented that some people could not see each item on the email attachments although they are all there.
 - *Response from NB.* This could be due to the different email systems showing attachments in a different order.
 - *Response from RK.* No-one replied to the email to say that they could not see the documents. Several people replied with apologies
 - **Chair's Report.**
 - *The amendment to the Constitution:* this was overtaken by subsequent events. The next steps are on today's agenda
 - *Nominations for Committee members for AGM:* Thanks to Rosemarie for doing the admin on this
 - **Treasurer's Report:**
 - *Adoption of @pocklingtonu3a.org.uk for email addresses.* This is on today's agenda
 - **Secretary's Report.**
 - **AGM documents:** the AGM went very smoothly, which doesn't happen by accident. Many thanks to Rosemarie and others who helped with the 'invisible' spadework that made this possible
 - **Combining the AGM with the Drop-in** was a success and there were some very positive comments from those attending.
 - **Clarification needed for**
 - When to serve drinks
 - New members who wish to join at the AGM
 - Making sure all required doors are unlocked to access equipment.
 - Contact number for Burnby Hall

4. Chair's Report

Report Back from Yorkshire ACCORD meeting (April 20th)

- 11 u3as present
- Specific focus was recruitment
- 3/11 reported difficulty recruiting members. Two possible recruitment tactics

- Advert on screen in surgery waiting room
- Publicity in Care homes
- 11/11 reported difficulty recruiting committee members, especially Officer roles – no solutions were put forward.

u3a National Festival

This will be held in York on 1st-3rd July as it was last year. This is likely to be the last one as no other region has volunteered to take it on.

. Speakers at u3a events.

There was some discussion about finding speakers for u3a events. One u3a present has a programme of speaker events in which every speaker is actually a member of the u3a.

5. Vice Chair's Report Nothing to report

6. Treasurer's Report (RA)

- Financial update attached to the minutes.
- It was noted that the figures for membership on the Financial Report produced from Beacon were incorrect. This is because the Grace Period in System Settings is set at the default setting of 8 weeks. Proposal that the Beacon default setting be changed from 8 weeks to 4 weeks. Proposed by RA, seconded by CB. All in favour
- Suggested that at a future meeting, Les will go through Beacon – July 2026.

7. Membership Report (CB)

- Currently there are 772 members of which 98 have not renewed. CB has sent out 98 emails informing those members that their membership has lapsed. Of those 4 have replied, 2 wishing to renew and 2 not to renew.
- MS has sent the card to Ralph thanking him for his work for the committee and wishing him all the best in the future.

8. Secretary's Report (RK)

- Committee list. An up-to-date committee list has been circulated which reflects the information on the Charity Commission and which can now be easily updated with any changes.
- Pocklington Arts Centre Amigos Scheme. RK outlined the Amigos scheme which offers people the chance to meet up with other people to go to the screenings at the Arts Centre rather than go on their own. The committee supported the suggestion. RW will put it in the Newsletter. RK offered to be the contact if any members are interested.

9. Groups (LS)

May Group Leaders Survey Feedback

To date 45 of the 62 groups have responded.

Responses have revealed 4 people who are attending groups of whom we have no record as current or past members, and one who last renewed 3 years ago.

Several group leaders reported very positive feedback from their groups, including Jazz, Instrumental Ensemble, Yoga and Amble Ramble.

10. Consideration of Adoption of Model Constitution (LS)

LS introduced this item: the purpose of this item today is not to discuss the content of the u3a's model constitution, but to decide how to go about studying it with a view to deciding at a later date whether

- To adopt it in full
- To adopt a version amended to meet our specific needs
- To not adopt it at all.

The u3a's model constitution is 20 pages long and contains 34 clauses, (the last one not applying to existing u3as). There are 2 possible ways of proceeding

- All committee members read the model constitution and bring their observations to a meeting later
- We appoint a subgroup to study it on our behalf, and report back at a later date, or dates, to be determined by the subgroup.

At the end of the whatever process we agree to, the final decision on whether to recommend to adopt will be made by a vote in the full committee.

A discussion followed with various points being made including,

- RA outlining the main differences between our constitution and the u3a model
- The importance of retaining institutional memory. The new Constitution is for an existing organisation and must reflect the history of it. Therefore, it's important to have Moira, the longest serving member attending committee, on the subgroup.
- The approval of the Third Age Trust is necessary for any change to the Constitution. They may not be happy with anything too different from the model. They are more likely to accept the model constitution with changes to suit us
- Reviewing the Constitution is very important but not urgent. To be ready for approval at the AGM in 2027 or at an EGM if we are ready earlier.

LS proposed:

That the committee establishes a subgroup with a maximum of 4 members to deliberate on the revision of the Constitution, to report back monthly and to make a final recommendation to the committee by November 2027.

Seconded by RW. All in favour.

Members of the subgroup: Moira Laverack, Richard Antcliff, Simon Eggleston, Margaret Stubbs. Les to attend as requested. Moira to convene the meetings.

11. New Members Role

The membership role has been split into 2 parts, CB looking after memberships and RV looking after new members. Since Ralph has left the committee, CB offered to take on the role as well. NB has offered to assist with the new members role.

However, it is felt that a review of the Membership/New Members role is needed.

Action: RK to put on agenda for June

12. Email addresses

RW has problems getting the updated email addresses for committee members and RK had the same problem with NB's email address this morning. This should be rectified by updating personal address books.

13. Events

- Outdoor games. May 22nd at 11am. *RW to send email by Beacon reminding members*
- Committee Social. *RK to put on Agenda for June meeting*
- Tea Dance. A member spoke to LS about this at the AGM.

14. AOB

Communication within the Committee (LS)

The beginning of a new year is an appropriate time to remind ourselves of the habits that have helped us to be both effective and happy in the ways we go about our business, certainly in the 3 years I've been on the committee.

- We communicate, both orally and in writing, in mutually supportive and courteous ways
- When committee debate gives rise to personal disagreements, these are argued out in private between the disagreeing individuals, not shared publicly with other members of the committee.
- When we disagree with a committee decision, we abide by it and support it in a public way

- Whilst ongoing discussion of current issues is absolutely desirable and absolutely to be encouraged, the only place where formal debate and decision-making on policy and significant actions occur is in the committee meeting.

Wild Life Gardening Group (SE)

- The group are organising a trip to Little Silver Hedgehog Wildlife Garden on 1st June. *RW to send out an email*

Committee List on website (RA)

The members of the Committee are listed on the Website in .pdf file that is downloadable but can be hard to find. It also has each member's email address and phone number. It was agreed that the Committee members list should be an integrated part of the website without personal details and added as a submenu of the Resources page. The Resources page to be renamed 'About' in line with other u3as.

Pay Pal and Sum up Have been successfully transferred to RA

15. Date of Next Meeting. Tuesday June 16th, 2026, 10.00am, Pocklington Rugby Club, Burnby Lane.