Pocklington & District u3a

PROVISIONIAL Minutes of Committee Meeting

Tuesday 15th September 2026, 10am
Pocklington Rugby Club

Present:
Neil Barrett (Chair), Simon Eggleston (Vice Chair), Polly Fothergill, David Hebden, Gerry Hutchinson, Simon Graham, Rosemarie Kennedy (Secretary), Michael May, Margaret Stubbs.

Apologies: Richard Antcliff (Treasurer), Christina Burn, Moira Laverack (President), Rosemary Waugh.

1.Welcome: NB

2. Approval of minutes of previous meeting 18th August 2026:
NB. Alterations approved to wording in two sections:
3. Matters arising. Para 3, Concerns about recent negative personal emails… First sentence adjusted to read 'MS is not happy about some recent emails coming from RA.'
14. AOB. Whats App. First two sentences replaced with 'Committee decided that Whats App should not be used for decisions on official u3a business'.
Proposed RK, seconded NB, carried.

3. Matters arising:
NB. DH reported that 2025-26 accounts have now been examined and signed off by Alan Murphy and all is now completed for this year.
SE will draw up inventory of u3a equipment held by groups and members, using list begun by Les Smith.
NB reported the good news that Chris Smith has now agreed to carry on as Webmaster.

4. Chair's report:
NB*. Trustee training course:* discussion on this deferred to a future meeting when more committee members are present.
Beacon presentation plans: SG suggested that we need to understand the capabilities of Beacon, and how we could use it to our advantage, before making a presentation. LS is an expert on this and has agreed to advise.
Action: SG to discuss with LS then set a date for the presentation.

5. Vice Chair's report:
SE attended the recent York & Humber Region Local Forum in Driffield and reported one concern that was raised. YAHR is concerned that information sent by email to committee members is not always being passed on to the wider membership. DH suggested a monthly email newsletter be sent to members with information from YAHR, and other official u3a matters.
Action: RK and NB to discuss with RW possibility of a 2nd newsletter.

YAHR will be taking a stall at the next Yorkshire Show to raise awareness of local u3as.
YAHR also have some funds available for local u3a use, that we could apply for if we ever need. It was suggested that we might apply for funds for a full Zoom licence as some groups use Zoom for external speakers, but it is expensive. It was suggested that Microsoft Teams could be useful for this, and we already have a licence, although SG thinks this is for admin purposes only.

Action: Defer to discuss with RA on his return from holiday.

6. Treasurer's report:
Current balances: Current a/c £10,717.78. Membership a/c £115.00. Paypal a/c £57.04. Total = £10,889.82.

RA has circulated full statement of accounts to all committee members.

Report from RA via RK: 'RK, CB and RA now have access to Bankline which is used for online payments with dual authorisation.
RA has circulated a signed copy of the 2025-26 accounts which were examined and signed off by Alan Murphy. Alan has agreed to examine the 2026-27 accounts.
u3a office confirms that of the 1000 or so u3as, less than 10% are CIOs, they agree that being a CIO removes personal liabilities from trustees. RA has a copy of the Model CIO Constitution.'
Action: discuss at October committee meeting. RK to add to agenda for October.

7. Membership Secretary's update:
CB reports that as at 11th September we now have 701 members.

8. Secretary's report:
RK circulated the report 'u3a and Me' survey findings for information, and the findings from Yorkshire and Humber are very positive indeed.
More than 10,000 members responded to the survey.
Headline findings –

- 95% say u3a has improved their life in some way.
- 90% say u3a gives the opportunities to keep learning and stay curious.
- 79% say the u3a has expanded their social connections.
- 77% say their sense of well being has improved since joining.
- 66% say the u3a has helped them stay physically and mentally active.
- 45% say being part of the u3a has reduced feelings of loneliness and isolation.

In addition to the full report there are resources to help u3as turn the findings into practical marketing and communications.
Action: RK to add 'Publicity' to agenda for October meeting.

u3a week is the 19th September.

9. Groups: *LS provided the following to RK:*
'The Group Leaders' Survey is up to date right now. Nine of the gaps belong to groups whose GLs were contacted by post rather than email (3 of them have the same GL) and might have replied while LS has been in France.' Members of the committee have been given a hard copy of the survey findings.

10. Publicity:
Leaflets: SG tried out both the URLs on the reverse of the new leaflet and both directed searchers to P&D u3a website where they can enrol as a new member.
PF reported that Beckside have added details of P&D u3a to their new paper newsletter that is available in the side room at Beckside.
Action: PF to take leaflets to Beckside, and the A4 page of survey results from YAHR that are so positive.

11. Events:

Group Leaders' social update: NB. Wednesday 21st October 11am – 2pm. Rugby Clubhouse has limit of 80 people. Pies to be collected from Dan's Pies van in car park. Tea & coffee provided. Provisional format is quiz, lunch, entertainment by Red Sky Ukuleles. LS is currently sending invitations/RSVP to all group leaders.

Committee social update: DH. Probably in the new year. Agreed food to be on an 'everyone bring a platter' basis.

Midwinter Music event update: PF. Thursday 17th December. PF made a second visit to the Tom Stoppard Theatre and has typed up details of facilities which, with a map of the site and parking, will be available to participating groups at a meeting in October. A second hot water urn will be needed, possibly borrowed from Scout hut?
Action: agenda item for November meeting to plan refreshments.

Games afternoon: MS. 10th October. MS urgently needs volunteers to set out and put away tables and chairs.

Art Exhibition: MS has now booked this for 30th January 2027, 10am – 3pm. Open from 9am for setting up. This event is open to the public to visit. Volunteers needed.

Wolds Day: MS. March 2027. MS will book Burnby Community Hall for a date that does not clash with other major events in town. MS will be handing this event over to RA.

Pockdown: MS suggested that the value of u3a presence at this event was doubtful in terms of recruitment of new members. SE suggested we take more time to plan a display/stall that promotes us better. *See next item.*

Pocklington Tuesday market: DH suggested we take a stall at a Tuesday market to promote P&Du3a, next year. PF mentioned that Uke group 1 were also considering playing there as the gig in summer 2024 was very successful, and a joint appearance could be an effective way of showcasing our u3a. DH suggested that maybe the Photography group could produce large (A3?) display photographs of various groups and their activities.
Action: DH to draw up plans for publicity for next meeting. (Publicity already to be added to agenda for October meeting under section 8 above.)

12. AOB:
Storage of u3a equipment: DH is still persevering with request to store u3a items at Burnby Community Hall. The list of u3a equipment that SE will prepare will be useful for this.

Transition to paperless membership: RK suggested we have a working party to plan this transition.
Action: agenda item for November meeting.

Circulation of committee meeting minutes: PF has taken guidance on writing minutes and one requirement is that 'Draft' minutes are sent, first of all, to the chair of the meeting for approval. Only after this will 'Provisional' minutes be circulated to committee members. Once these have been ratified at the following meeting, and 'Provisional' removed, they can be archived on our website as usual.

13. Date of next committee meeting: Tuesday 20th October 2026, 10am, Rugby Club, Burnby Lane.

End of meeting: 11.25am

P.F. 15th September 2026