

Draft minutes of U3a committee mtg 4th March 2025

Present: Sue McPhee (Chair), Mark Beaumont, Gwynneth Carmichael, Yvonne Crabtree, Angela Dixon, Judy Rogerson, Chris Watson, Mel Wood

1. Apologies for absence – Steve Clark, Francis Davis, Sue Dyson, Lynn Quantrill, Chris Toffolo
2. Minutes of the last meeting +
3. Matters arising – Minutes to be amended. Chairmans's report first paragraph to show that no decision had been made to use Pay Pal and be signed at the next meeting.
4. Chairman's Report (SM) The last monthly meeting had been very informative, but in future members would be reminded to turn their phones off before the meeting.
 - The Memorial Hall has been booked for the Open afternoon Wed 9th April
 - The Memorial Hall is not able to confirm availability for August due to upcoming works. It was agreed to book both the Memorial Hall and St Luke's in Willerby to ensure a venue.
 - St Luke's was also available on Wed afternoons, but would need to be a bigger group due to the cost, £35 for 2 hours.
 - We returned to the issue of secure storage of AWAKE documents. JR kindly offered the use of a metal filing cabinet on her premises. SM will discuss with Denise Roberts to see if this will suffice. SM thanked JR for her offer.
5. Treasurers Report (LQ) Information had been circulated by LQ prior to the meeting. No matters arising.
6. Membership secretary (GC) Most people are paying by cheque, BACS would be preferable.
 - Several new people are waiting to join as members in March.
 - Members previously known as 'Associate' do need to complete a renewal membership form but do not need to pay. Discussion ensued about when group leaders would be able to add them to their lists. CW as Interest Group Co-ordinator to email committee with the suggested outcome of the discussion for confirmation before informing group leaders.
 - SM had had requests from members of other u3a's asking if they can join AWAKE as full members, agreed that if they wished to do this, that was possible.
 - New version of the membership forms are available on the website.
 - MB mentioned that someone undergoing gender reassignment had expressed an interest in joining AWAKE but was a little unsure. SM said that all were welcome in AWAKE and all the committee concurred. As they had initially expressed an interest in joining the Nature group, MB was asked if possible to discuss with them how we might support them in being able to join.
 - GC raised some points from her training on Online Membership. This has many advantages e.g. in ease of use for herself and the Treasurer. It also had advantages such as reducing the costs to the group e.g. removing the postage of

membership cards . GC will circulate further information to the committee prior to the next meeting for discussion, with a view to this being introduced in 2026.

7. Interest group co-ordinator (CW) Around 20 people have shown interest in the meeting on Thursday about a Spanish Group.

- CW had been approached by a couple of dance teachers to run a class, unfortunately as they were from Birmingham and London, they lived too far away.
- A golf group has been proposed, CW to discuss with proposer.
- It will be announced in the next news letter that AWAKE had been invited to use Mr Pips Ice Cream Parlour. The possibility of a 1950's music group will be raised

8. Newsletter (SR) Nothing to report regarding content.

- With regard to distribution, MW is shadowing Michael Ebling to help. It was noted that we are reliant on volunteers to deliver them when they are able.

9. Website (CM) Nothing to report.

10. Speaker Finder (SM) Speakers are in place for Jan – Mar 2026

- looking into booking a Sea Shanty group for the Summer meeting.

11. Beacon (CW) – proceeding well, though change of authorised user is proving difficult to arrange.

- some people have complained about not receiving e-mails through Beacon, SM will investigate if this is confined to one particular provider.

12. Health and safety (SC) – nothing to report.

13. AOB SM asked for volunteer to join her in attending the ACCORD group meeting in April where she is chair. CW volunteered.

- The nature photos for the competition have been given to MB and Celia for judging, there are approximately 50. There are two categories: Landscape, Floral and Miscellaneous and Wildlife, with a £10 prize for each group winner. It is hoped to show them all at the start of a monthly meeting as a slide show. As there had been such interest, a possible photography group was mooted.

- AD gave Gift aid Update. Has taken 6 weeks after multiple attempts and contacts with HMRC, to discover that permissions to handle our Gift Aid had not been able to be given to her due a previous authority not being able to give their permission as they had deceased. This has now been sorted but the paperwork will take up a further 5 weeks. Although there has been some delay, it should not delay our ability to claim GA too severely. SM thanked AD for her perseverance in this matter.

- MW requested that a notice should go out to let people know that the Pétanque group will be recommencing shortly. He is planning to do some maintenance work on the paths in preparation for this. SM reminded him to follow H&S guidance while doing so.

14. Date, Venue and Time of next meeting

April 1st, Willerby Institute, Main Street, Willerby Meeting at 10 AM

Meeting closed at 12.00pm