

Furness U3A Committee

CONFIRMED MINUTES of the Meeting held at the Bedford Room, Ulverston Methodist Church on 12th May 2026

1 PRESENT:

Committee Members

Harry Knowles, Linda Marshall, Neil McLaughlin Cook, Adrian Morris,
Dawn Morris, Duncan Platts and Gary Thompson.

By Invitation

Simon Baxter.

2 APOLOGIES:

Richard Lewis.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH APRIL

The Minutes (previously circulated) were formally agreed.

ACTION

Neil to send the Minutes to Simon, for uploading to the website.

4 ANY MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES THAT ARE NOT COVERED IN THE AGENDA

4.1 Richard was still not receiving authorisation requests from The Cumberland.

ACTION

Gary and Richard to continue to liaise with The Cumberland to resolve this matter.

4.2 Tisha will shortly permanently delete the personal records on Beacon of the ex-member who had requested Complete Erasure of her records under Data Protection legislation.

ACTION

Neil to inform the ex-member, as soon as possible, that erasure has taken place.

4.3 All other Actions had either been undertaken or were discussed under items 5-13 below.

5 REVIEW OF THE MAY MONTHLY MEETING

About 130 members attended. The speaker spoke with passion about the restoration of the Grange Lido.

6 FURNESS u3a 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Duncan had circulated the Minutes of the Steering Committee held on 29th April.

It was **AGREED** that Neil would act as compere for the anniversary event, to be held on 29th September.

The start and end times for the event, and proposed costings, were still to be confirmed.

ACTION

Duncan, on behalf of the Steering Committee, to submit proposed costings and timings to the June u3a Committee meeting.

The Steering Committee intend to ask u3a groups to provide entertainment. The Committee discussed whether groups would be able to provide entertainment at three separate events in the autumn: the 20th Anniversary event on 29th September, the Coffee Morning on 29th October, and Silver Sunday [date not yet decided], and it was suggested that some of the entertainment might be provided by Fools Gold.

ACTION

Duncan to [a] ask the Steering Committee to consider whether Fools Gold might be invited to perform and [b] ask Group Leaders, at the forthcoming Leaders Meeting, whether they would be in a position to perform at all three events

The Steering Committee had asked for advice about how tickets might be issued other than at the Monthly Meetings. It was suggested that *Eventbrite* could handle such matters free of charge.

ACTION

Duncan to ask the Steering Committee to consider whether to use *Eventbrite* to issue tickets.

7 FORTHCOMING NATIONAL ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Neil had circulated a list of forthcoming workshops. Dawn reported that she had registered to attend four of them.

ACTION

Dawn to attend the workshops and report back to the Committee

8 FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS

Duncan had informed the Committee of criticisms of the Committee that had been drawn to his attention by a u3a member. The Committee **AGREED** that the comments were insufficiently specific to enable a response to be made. However, it was noted that the person who had drawn the matter to Duncan's attention would be at the forthcoming Leaders Meeting, and so it was also **AGREED** to raise the matter that meeting.

ACTION

Duncan to raise the matter at the Leaders Meeting.

9 REVIEWING ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

The current Role Descriptions on the website were produced in 2023, and may need updating. It is particularly important to ensure that the descriptions are accurate in the case of roles to which we are currently trying to recruit.

ACTION

ALL to review their own role descriptions [Section C] and send Neil any amendments before the June meeting.

ALL to look at the general descriptions for all Committee members [Sections A and B] and consider, before the June meeting, whether they are still appropriate.

Linda informed the Committee that she wished to stand down from her role as Membership Secretary, although she wished to remain as a Committee member. The Committee thanked Linda for all she has done in this important role, especially during the membership renewals periods, and **AGREED** that she would remain on the Committee as a *member without portfolio*. It was also **AGREED** that Adrian would assume the role of Membership Secretary with effect from the end of June 2026, supported by Dawn.

ACTION

Linda to meet Adrian and Dawn to explain the role in more detail.

10 VOLUNTEERING FOR FURNESS u3a

Linda had arranged for a volunteer recruitment poster to be displayed at Monthly Meetings. This was welcomed by the Committee.

More generally, it was **AGREED** that it would be more effective to recruit volunteers for specific tasks than to issue a general invitation for members to volunteer.

11 THIRD AGE TRUST AGM [14TH OCTOBER]

This event would be held online and in person at a venue to be notified.

The deadline for submitting resolutions is 5th June; the Committee **AGREED** not to do so.

12 ANNUAL RETURN TO THE THIRD AGE TRUST

The return was due by the end of April, but Neil did not receive the email giving details of how to submit it until the morning of the May Committee meeting.

ACTION

Neil to submit the return.

13 REPORTS

13.1 Chair

Richard had sent apologies to the meeting.

13.2 Treasurer

Gary had emailed a written report. All accounts were balanced and reconciled, and the net cash position was £19841.00.

13.3 Secretary

Following a meeting with Simon, Neil made two proposals to the Committee about the Newsletter, as follows

- [a] If Simon, as editor, receives an article that either appears to be factually incorrect or contains material Simon is unsure about publishing, he should draw the matter to the attention of Richard or Neil, who will advise Simon on the best way forward. If Neil or Richard judge that an article should not be published as it stands, the authors should be asked, as appropriate, to amend or withdraw the article. The Committee **AGREED** this proposal.
- [b] Since the Newsletter is now published as a webpage that can be viewed by anyone with access to the internet, not just u3a members, authors should be advised to [i] check, before submitting an article, that any member whose photograph is included in the article are happy for their image to appear on the web, and [ii] avoid including images copied from other websites, which may be subject to copyright restrictions. The Committee **AGREED** this proposal.

ACTION

Neil to write an article for the June Newsletter offering advice to authors.

13.4 Groups Liaison

Duncan had emailed a written report. The next meeting of Group Leaders will take place on 26th May; several members of the Committee will attend.

13.5 Membership Secretary

Linda had emailed a written report. As of 30th April, 60 fee-paying members were still to renew. Subsequently, Linda had lapsed 55 members, most of whom did not belong to any groups.

There were a number of duplicate records on Beacon.

ACTION

Linda to ask Tisha to delete the duplicate records.

13.6 Speaker Finder

Harry had emailed a written report. In addition, Harry drew the Committee's attention to two potential topics for 2027: *the Eden Project North*, and *the Culture and History of Iran*.

13.7 Welfare and Inclusion

Dawn had emailed a written report.

13.8 Website Editor / Newsletter Editor

Nothing further to report.

13.9 Publicity Officer

Harry had emailed a written report. The next event will be our stand at Retro Rendezvous on Saturday 30th May. The stand will be staffed in the morning by Gary, Harry and Linda, and in the afternoon by Duncan and Adrian; Harry will find an additional volunteer for the afternoon.

ACTION

Harry to find a further volunteer for the afternoon.

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

15 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at **1200 noon on Tuesday 9th June.**