Furness U3A Committee

C O N F I R M E D
M I N U T E S
of the Meeting held at
the Bedford Room, Ulverston Methodist Church
on 9th June 2026

1 PRESENT:

Committee Members
Harry Knowles, Richard Lewis, Linda Marshall, Neil McLaughlin Cook, and Gary Thompson.

By Invitation
Simon Baxter.

2 APOLOGIES:

Adrian Morris, Dawn Morris and Duncan Platts.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY

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 The ex-member who had requested Complete Erasure of her records under Data Protection legislation had now been informed that erasure had taken place. Neil advised the Committee that if, in future, such a request is received from a member who had been a Trustee of Furness u3a, the request would need to be forwarded to the Third Age Trust and Charity Commission, who both hold records of our Trustees.

4.3 Some of the online workshops that Dawn would attend on behalf of the Committee had not yet taken place.
ACTION
$\boxed{\text{Dawn}}$ to attend the workshops and report back to the Committee

4.4 All other Actions had either been undertaken or were discussed under items 5-14 below.

5 REVIEW OF THE JUNE MONTHLY MEETING

Attendance was slightly lower then recently, probably due to members being on holiday. Neil had given the talk, about Dalton Castle, which was well received.

6 FURNESS u3a 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Duncan had circulated the Minutes of the Steering Committee held on 14th May.

Unfortunately, Duncan had been unable to attend the June Committee meeting, and the next Committee meeting would not take place until after the July Monthly meeting. Therefore, in order for the Committee to give formal approval to the proposals before tickets are issued at the July Monthly Meeting, a short additional meeting would be needed, at which a sub-group would approve the proposals on behalf of the full Committee. The sub-group would comprise, at the minimum, Richard, Harry, Gary and Duncan; before approving the proposals, the sub-group would consider: how tickets would be issued; the timing of the event; and the proposed budget.
ACTION
$\boxed{\text{Harry}}$ to host the meeting.
$\boxed{\text{Richard}}$ to invite Duncan to the meeting.
$\boxed{\text{All}}$ to either attend the meeting or inform Richard of any points they wished to be raised.

Linda asked whether our u3a would be covered in the event of a member falling ill as a result of food poisoning at the Jacobs' Join; it was also suggested that our insurers might expect a risk assessment for the event to be carried out.
ACTION
$\boxed{\text{Neil}}$ to explore the terms of our insurance policy, and then convey key points to Gary and Richard before the sub-group meeting. If appropriate, the implications of our insurance policy would be added to the Agenda for the sub-group meeting.

7 ISSUES FROM THE MAY GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

Duncan had circulated Minutes of the meeting, held on 26th May. Seven Committee members had attended, together with 15 Group Leaders who do not currently serve on the Committee.

A good discussion was held on several points, as outlined in the Minutes of that meeting, and the Committee **AGREED** that the exercise had been helpful.

ACTION

Duncan to organise future meetings in due course.

At an earlier Committee meeting, Duncan had drawn to the Committee's attention that a Group Leader had expressed dissatisfaction with the Committee. The reason for the dissatisfaction had not been stated by the Group Leader concerned, and so one rationale for the meeting had been to give Group Leaders an opportunity to raise any concerns or issues about the Committee. However, no concerns were expressed during the meeting, and the discussion gave the Committee no grounds for supposing that Group Leaders are dissatisfied.

8 SILVER SATURDAY [17TH OCTOBER]

The Coro had not been able to find a suitable date for Silver Sunday in 2026, and so had suggested to Neil that Saturday 17th October might be used instead, with the event being termed "Silver Saturday". Bearing in mind the major contribution made by u3a members to the event, the Coro had decided in the first instance to share the proposed date with the u3a Committee, with further planning only taking place if the u3a Committee supported the proposal. The Committee **AGREED** to do our best to support Silver Saturday on this date.

ACTION

Neil to inform the Coro that Furness u3a would, in principle, be happy to be involved with Silver Saturday on 17th October.

9 MEMBERS' EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

At the Group Leaders meeting, Ken Shaw [from the Friday Walkabouts] had mentioned the ICE [In Case of Emergency] cards that are referred to in the *Risk Management Guide for Walking Groups* available from the Furness u3a website. However, other Group Leaders who attended the meeting did not appear to have been aware of this facility. The Committee discussed whether to ask all members to take emergency contact information, including key medical information, on u3a activities It was **AGREED** that carrying such information was sensible, but the Committee did not wish to make it compulsory.

ACTION

Dawn to provide guidance on this matter in an article in the Newsletter.

10 REVIEWING ROLE DESCRIPTIONS

In relation to the Section B [*Roles Common to all Committee Members*] the Committee **AGREED** that it was unlikely that Drop-ins would be reinstated in the foreseeable future, and so all references to Drop-ins should be removed. Otherwise, Section B should remain unchanged.

ACTION

Neil to remove all references to Drop-ins from Section B.

For Sections C and D, Neil had received comments from Linda and Simon; Richard, Gary and Harry confirmed during the meeting that no changes were required to their sections.

ACTION

Neil to [a] delete the Drop-in Organiser role from Section C and [b] in liaison with the relevant members, amend specific parts of Sections C and D on the basis on comments received.

Dawn, Adrian and Duncan to advise Neil what amendments, if any, are needed to their entries.

11 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

This event will take place on Tuesday 8th December. The Coro has been booked.

The Committee **AGREED** that, as usual, there should be entertainment and a quiz. It was suggested that Furness Music Centre [FMC] might supply the entertainment, and that one of our u3a members, Jean Ashworth, was on the FMC Committee.

ACTION

Linda to ask Jean Ashworth whether FMC could provide the entertainment for the Christmas Social.

Given that the Hospitality role on the Committee is currently vacant, organising food and drink would need careful planning, and the Committee considered how best to seek members to volunteer.

ACTION

Linda to ask Dawn Elsworth whether she would supply drinks.

Linda to seek volunteers from the Volunteering Group.

Richard to write an article, seeking volunteers, for the Newsletter.

12 ASSETS LIST

The Committee discussed the possibility of making the list of assets more readily available to members, so that the equipment could be borrowed for u3 activities. However, such a system would pose operational challenges that were not easy to resolve, so it was **AGREED** not pursue the matter at this stage.

13 VOLUNTEERING FOR FURNESS u3a

Linda had asked the Volunteering Group to volunteer to help with catering at Monthly meetings. The Committee was pleased to note that the rota was now full for the rest of 2026 [except that there was currently just one volunteer for October]. Catering for the December Social would be handled separately [see item 11 above].

14 REPORTS

14.1 Chair

Nothing further to report.

14.2 Treasurer

Gary had emailed a written report. All accounts were balanced and reconciled, and the net cash position was £15837.00.

14.3 Secretary

Nothing further to report.

14.4 Groups Liaison

Duncan had emailed a written report. This was received without further discussion.

14.5 Membership Secretary

Linda had emailed a written report. This was received without further discussion.

14.6 Speaker Finder

Harry had emailed a written report. In addition, Linda agreed to explore the possibility of a speaker on Local Conscientious Objectors.

14.7 Publicity Officer

Harry had emailed a written report. The Committee **AGREED** not to have a stall at Retro Rendezvous in 2027.

14.8 Welfare and Inclusion

Dawn had sent apologies.

14.9 Website Editor / Newsletter Editor

Nothing further to report.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee discussed how to provide a link from the website to a list of venues for group activities, together with features such as access and capacity.

ACTION

Simon to explore the provision of providing venue information via a link from the website.

16 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at **1200 noon** on **Tuesday 14th July**.