

Furness U3A Committee

CONFIRMED MINUTES of the Meeting held at the Bedford Room, Ulverston Methodist Church on 8th September 2026

1 PRESENT:

Committee Members

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

By Invitation

Simon Baxter.

2 APOLOGIES:

None.

3 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14TH JULY

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 Dawn had not yet been able to issue guidance to members about emergency contact information.

ACTION

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

- 4.2 Neil had not yet been able send feedback to the North West Region about the AGM format.

ACTION

Neil to email the North West Region.

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

5 REVIEW OF THE SEPTEMBER MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting was well attended, and the talk, on Urswick Tarn, was well received. The Committee agreed that the speaker was very knowledgeable and committed.

The Committee table contained a folder prepared by Linda giving various items of information that are also available on the website. The Committee **AGREED** that the folder was helpful and should be routinely placed on the table from now on.

The Committee noted that there was no table for new members, and it was **AGREED** that in future new members should be directed to the Committee table. It was also suggested that it would be helpful to arrange meetings for new members from time to time.

ACTION

Adrian to arrange a new members' meeting for January.

6 FURNESS u3a 20TH ANNIVERSARY [29TH SEPTEMBER]

Duncan had submitted a detailed report on behalf of the Steering Committee.

Neil confirmed that he was willing to serve as MC for the whole event.

The Barrow Male Voice Choir had asked to be represented by 20 singers instead of the 6 that had been suggested by Duncan. The Committee **AGREED** that 20 singers would be acceptable.

ACTION

Duncan to inform the Male Voice Choir of the Committee's decision.

Duncan had asked members about the desirability of the event being filmed, and the film then being made available via the website for members who are unable to attend. The Committee **SUPPORTED** the idea in principle, but **AGREED** that Duncan should liaise with the proposed production company to obtain further details and costings.

ACTION

Duncan to liaise with the production company and then email Committee members with further details, with a view to obtaining final approval by email.

Fifteen tickets had not been issued; members could collect these on the day.

Staffing had been arranged, except that a volunteer was needed to serve wine at the wine table. Gary volunteered for this role.

The likely costings for the event needed to be approved by the Committee as soon as possible.

ACTION

Duncan to send Committee members details of the proposed costings by the weekend after the Committee meeting.

7 SILVER SATURDAY [17TH OCTOBER]

Neil had sent an email to the Committee and participating u3a groups, outlining the proposed programme.

It was **AGREED** that Richard and Harry will staff the general u3a stall.

Publicity outside Furness u3a will be handled by the Coro. Within Furness u3a, publicity for the event would be via the Newsletter and the Monthly Meeting.

ACTION

Neil to write an article [with photos] for the October Newsletter, and make an announcement at the October Monthly Meeting.

8 u3a COFFEE MORNING [29TH OCTOBER]

Neil will email u3a groups in mid-September, to invite them to participate.

ACTION

Neil to email all Group Leaders.

The Committee **AGREED** that, as last year, a free light lunch should be offered to participating groups, and that a record should be kept of dietary requirements.

ACTION

Neil to invite participating groups to the lunch, and ask respondents to notify him of any dietary requirements.

9 CHRISTMAS SOCIAL [8TH DECEMBER]

The programme had been agreed in July, and so the discussion focussed on outstanding practical arrangements.

As in 2025, the catering supplier would be Bardsea Leisure. The supplier will require a deposit as well as the final payment. Gary will make the payments when the team liaising with Bardsea Leisure have obtained invoices.

ACTION

Linda to ensure that Gary receives the catering invoices from Bardsea Leisure.

Gary had drafted tickets. It was **AGREED** that the tickets should be amended, to [a] name the venue as *The Coro*, instead of *The Coronation Hall*, and [b] ask members to advise of any allergies or intolerances when buying their tickets [as in previous years, it was understood that Linda Croud would supply gluten-free food for those who had requested it].

ACTION

Gary to print 100 tickets, in time for the Volunteering Group to sell them at the October and November Monthly Meetings.

10 u3a EDI TRAINING

Dawn had attended a workshop on this subject over the summer. Some Committee members had expressed surprise that the workshop facilitator had seemed to imply that u3as might in principle be open to all, irrespective of age; it was suggested that it would be difficult to reconcile such a broadening of the membership with our specific remit, as a charity, to provide opportunities for people in the “Third Age” After some discussion, it was agreed that the matter required no action from our u3a at this point, but that we would await any communications from the Third Age Trust.

The discussion led to a query about the appropriateness of the Grants and Loans Policy. It was **AGREED** that the matter warranted further discussion.

ACTION

Neil to add “Grants and Loans Policy” to the October Agenda.

Adrian and Dawn to submit to the October meeting a proposal for how the current Grants and Loans Policy might be amended.

11 THIRD AGE TRUST AGM

This will be attended online by Neil on 14th October.

Neil had circulated details of 3 candidates for election to the Trust Board. Members **AGREED** to vote for Neil Stevenson.

ACTION

Neil to vote for Neil Stevenson by 24th September.

Neil had also circulated details of a resolution, from Haxby and Wigginton u3a, asking for the Trust Board to conduct a formal consultation with u3as about the Board’s involvement in advocacy, campaigning and public policy outside the promotion of lifelong learning, education and support for member u3as. Two amendments had also been submitted. The resolution and amendments will be debated and voted on during the meeting on 14th October. Members **AGREED** to vote against the resolution, against the first amendment, and for the second amendment.

ACTION

Neil to vote in accordance with the Committee’s decision.

12 ANNUAL RETURN TO THE CHARITY COMMISSION

The report must be submitted by 30th November.

ACTION

Neil to draft a report for the October meeting.

13 REPORTS

13.1 Chair

Nothing further to report.

13.2 Treasurer

Gary had emailed a written report. All accounts were balanced and reconciled, and the net cash position was £15939.00. It was **AGREED** that World History should be removed from the list of groups in the monthly Treasurer Reports.

ACTION

Gary to remove World History from the reports.

13.3 Secretary

Nothing further to report.

13.4 Groups Liaison

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

13.5 Membership Secretary

Adrian had emailed two reports: one for July and one for August. Members formally thanked Linda for her work as Membership Secretary and for arranging a smooth handover to Adrian.

13.6 Speaker Finder

Harry had emailed a written report. This was accepted without further discussion.

13.7 Publicity Officer

Harry had emailed a written report. The Committee noted that it had not been possible to have a stall at the Ulverston Family Fun Day in September, due to the reduced number of stands.

13.8 Welfare and Inclusion

Dawn had emailed a written report. The report referred to u3a Zoom Training on Contingency and Succession Planning that Dawn had undertaken, which had raised a number of issues that warranted discussion by the Committee. It was **AGREED** to discuss the matter further in October.

ACTION

Neil to add "Succession Planning" to the October Agenda.

13.9 Website Editor / Newsletter Editor

Simon had sent a report. The list of venues was now complete and was available via a tab on the website.

13.10 Volunteering

The Tea Rota for Monthly meetings was now complete for the remaining meetings in 2026, and members of the Volunteering Group would also help for the Christmas Social.

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Committee Members and the Newsletter

Following a suggestion by Linda, it was **AGREED** to introduce a series of articles in the Newsletter in which, each month, a member of the Committee explains what their role involves. Richard would write the first article.

ACTION

Richard to send Simon an article for the October Newsletter.

14.2 Printing Costs

It was noted that the current rate for refunding members for copying costs does not differentiate between colour and black-and-white printing. Colour is more expensive, so it would be helpful to have a special rate for it.

ACTION

Gary to explore the matter, and submit proposed rates to the October meeting.

15 DATE AND TIME OF THE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held at **1200 noon on Tuesday 13th October**.