

BAKEWELL u3a

Minutes of the Committee meeting on Thursday 10th July, 10 am

Friends' Meeting House, Bakewell

Present: Peter Holt (PH) Chair, David Hardman (DH), Sam Lewis (SL), Glenys Moore (GM), Richard Tucker (RT), Pam Walker (PW).

In attendance: Bernard McMahon (BM)

1. Apologies and Welcomes

Apologies: Kath Hopkins (KH), Ainslie Kelly (AK), David Thornton (DT).

Welcomes: Bernard McMahon, in attendance rather than co-opted. Hoping to improve publicity and communication.

Richard, co-opted and stepping up to the Secretary post; and

David (H), becoming Vice-chair. Both the above to be ratified at the AGM.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting on 24 April 2025 were approved as a correct record.
Proposed SL, seconded GM.

3. Matters arising

3a. Beacon roles

It was noted that Beacon Roles remain to be confirmed.

ACTION: Pam to liaise with KH and PC.

It was agreed that the secretary should have access to Beacon. Group leaders recording new members, attendance and leavers was good practice, but not essential. DH reported that information and skills were available on the TAT website.

ACTION: DH to investigate and report back

3b. Financial Policy

KH was still working to gain access to group bank accounts. She and PH were agreed that these accounts should be audited and presented to the Committee. AK reported a problem with Cooking by Men – that cash for the room hire at Lady Manners went out from AK's personal account and was then recovered from C by M members with Bu3a contributing £250 pa.

Action KH working to produce policy on this matter.

3c. Charity Commission records

SL had submitted a paper about CC returns – not considered in the absence of KH. Trustees' names needed to be updated; this had proved very hard for PH and KH. DH volunteered to take on contacts with the Charity Commission. **ACTION DH**

3d. Complaints Procedure. This was now on the website.

3e. Derbyshire u3a network meeting

PH had attended a 'very useful' meeting on 22nd May and hoped to go again. It was good to share common problems, but there was not enough unscheduled time for personal contact. Takeaways from the meeting included:

Ashbourne had seen a big increase in membership by using social media. But they had a dedicated, enthusiastic and expert person.

Practice varied regarding registers of those attending group meetings. This was not a legal requirement, but good practice. There were H&S/insurance reasons in favour.

PH had enquired about other groups holding monthly central meetings. Matlock had tried and struggled; but Wirksworth regularly had 50 - 60 people attending. Factors affecting this mentioned in discussion included geography: Town and villages or single town? and local consciousness, strong in Wirksworth.

4. Treasurer's Report

PH reported on behalf of KH. As of 2nd July the current account stood at £2658.10 (£2369.10 on 10th). KH felt we were in a comfortable position to cover costs for the rest of the year.

PH added that Kath had still not had access to historical bank account statements.

5. Membership Report

PH reported for DT, who had very little to report. One new member had been added to Beacon. One prospective member had tried unsuccessfully to deliver three applications to DT's house. DT had called and texted to advise with no reply to date.

ACTION DT: Persevere!

There followed a long but inconclusive discussion about welcoming new members. Was a welcome pack needed? The general view was yes. Should it be sent electronically or in hard copy? A variety of views. Should it include a hard copy of the Gazette? Some support; DT had not sent hard copies to new members. GM

recognised the trend towards copies by email, but said longstanding members preferred hard copies. A decision was deferred to the next meeting.

6. Group Report

AK had submitted a Group Co-ordinator's Report to the Chair, circulated to committee members with the minutes. He commented on the problems of recruiting new group members and leaders; in his view this was connected with diminishing membership of Bu3a. Amongst groups experiencing difficulties he mentioned the following: walking group, environment group, craft group, book group and art group. He recommended running another open day in spring 2026, encouraging sharing of group leadership responsibilities, and setting up a sub-group to formulate and implement an action plan.

In discussion it was suggested that Bu3a did not have a high enough profile: publicity in local media had been hit-and-miss and the website needed to be more attractive.

It was agreed to set up the sub-group proposed, with members AK, Bernard M, DH and possibly PH.

ACTION PH to convene this sub-group

AK drew attention to problems facing the Cooking by Men group, where he as GL had had to pay an advance of £780 for room hire for 2026 from his personal account. It was agreed this was unacceptable.

ACTION AK and KH to seek a solution

7. Framework within which groups operate

The relationship between groups and the committee, particularly the financial aspects was too vague. PH proposed to take this up with AK.

ACTION PH

8. Meetings each month for all members

There was a need to integrate the Meg Laird meetings better into the programme.

Action: BH to consider this possibility

9. Inclusion of personal data in Gazette

SL was unhappy about personal data, particularly email addresses, being included in the Gazette. Walking Group leaders had their personal details in the Gazette so that potential walkers could contact them; it was suggested that they could give permission for their personal details to go in the Gazette and their names on the site.

It was agreed that Glenys should delete email addresses from the Gazette, plus all the phone numbers of committee members.

ACTION GL

SL agreed to ask Steve Clark to change the address secretary@bakewellu3a.org.uk from himself to RT.

ACTION SL

AOB. DT had been sent details of a family history conference in Buxton on 6 September, run by the 'Peak District u3a Network'. Were the Committee happy for him to share this with members via Beacon? The Network was googled and OK'd, so it was decided in favour.

ACTION DT

Eyam Museum were looking for a treasurer; could this be advertised in the Gazette? Approved.

ACTION PH

RT 7.2025