

Bu3a Committee Meeting, Thursday 27 November 2025, 10am

Friends Meeting House, Bakewell

Minutes

Present: Peter Holt - Chair, Kath Hopkins, Ainslie Kelly, Sam Lewis, Glenys Moore, David Thornton, Richard Tucker

In attendance: Bernard McMahon

Peter welcomed Ainslie, who had been persuaded to withdraw his resignation.

1. Apologies: Phil Clarke, Pam Walker.

Peter read out a message from David Hardman explaining that he was regretfully resigning owing to ill health. On behalf of the committee Peter paid tribute to David's much valued contribution over the short time he was able to serve. A replacement for David as Vice-Chair would be sought.

2. Minutes of meeting on 9 October 2025. These were approved as a correct record.

3. Matters arising:

3a. Beacon roles and Secretary's access to Beacon

Phil was thanked for the paper he had circulated on 12 October. Phil pointed out the need for a Site Admin 'shadow' and Kath agreed to take this on. It was noted that the 'Current BU3A Role Assignments' list and the access conferred needed updating; it was agreed that Phil and David T should do this, and that the paper should state that "We adhere to national u3a privacy and GDPR standards."

ACTION DAVID AND PHIL

It was confirmed that members had no access to Beacon, but could check their personal details via the site administrator. David stated that he sent a welcome email to new members, with a reference to the Gazette and to any relevant interest groups.

3b. Draft Financial policy

Kath and David H had had a meeting to modify a first draft policy. Kath would present a final version to the next committee meeting.

3c. Theatre Group

Ainslie confirmed that Lindsay Jackson wanted to form a new Theatre Group, which he was enthusiastic about. 17 people were interested, and the inaugural meeting was that same day. The schedule for the year was in the November Gazette. It included four live visits p.a. preceded by a group discussion of the play, with a further discussion afterwards. Meetings would be monthly on the first Thursday, and all

members should be actively involved.

3d. Thermal imaging camera

Sam reported that Martins Energy Agency would run a training session in Great Longstone in 10 days' time, after which the camera could be used in Longstone.

4. Treasurer's Report

Kath reported that we had £1140 in the main Nat West account and £760 in a second account arising mainly from the craft group. The weekly Bridge Group had £1506. Bu3a had £7715 on deposit at 30/10, including [annual] interest of £293. Several invoices were awaited, including one from Chatsworth.

It had been agreed that subs for 2026 should not rise from £20. There was discussion of how to treat those who joined late in the year. It was proposed by David T and **agreed** that subs paid from 1st October should be valid to the end of the following year. Premises hire: Bu3a funds supported groups with the cost of hire up to £250 p.a., as the cost of premises hire exceeded group income in some cases. It was agreed to review the support level. ACTION KATH

Glenys reported problems with moving the Meg Laird Christmas meal transactions under the Bu3a accounts. It was easier to use their own cheque book! Kath needed an annual income/ expenditure report from groups, ideally using Ledger from Beacon. It was agreed that Meg Laird would provide this, but keep its own bank account.

A third signatory was needed for the savings account. David T agreed to be one.

5. Membership Report

David reported the list showed 264 members – 248 full and 16 associates. It was noted that there were particular problems with couples, with wives including Laetitia Tucker and Joan Hardman omitted. Possibly these were not members when Beacon was populated. One solution would be for all groups to include their members' names in Beacon, which would make it easier to reconcile and tidy up records. Some groups functioned very informally and sent no information to Beacon. It was agreed that an email should go reminding members when renewing their subs to give their name as reference on a bank transfer. ACTION PETER

6. Group Report

Ainslie had rung around to check on some groups. The Environment Group was thriving. The Bridge Group leader, Trish Simmons, was worried that membership subs would not cover room hire cost – although they had a large bank balance. Peter reported that the Chatsworth Group was doing OK, with the 2026 programme in place.

7. Membership and Engagement Action Group (MEAG)

Bernard reported that David H had been leading the group, but could not give it 100% so had stepped down. Bernard would lead the group. They had had a series of meetings to ask how they could make interventions to stimulate growth and foster new groups. Liz Coleridge, who had a background in events and marketing, had joined the group. David T, Ainslie, Liz and Bernard planned to meet with 3 objectives:

1. to draw up a calendar of all group meetings in 2026 to avoid clashes;
2. to make the website more of a promotion focus, alongside the Gazette. To these ends they wanted to get group leaders together following their survey, before Christmas if possible;
3. To fill the year with a monthly event for the whole membership, with others complementing the bi-monthly Meg Laird events.

Risk factors shown up by the survey included:

1. A rising age profile, perhaps because retirements were now more gradual than 'big-bang'. It may be that evening events needed to be organised alongside afternoon ones;
2. A concentration on too few group leaders was making us vulnerable. We had to find ways to give more support to group leaders. Ainslie suggested that sharing the leader's role could solve our support and succession problems. A further problem was too many members not taking responsibility and saying 'I've done my bit.'

7a. Meeting with Phil Mulligan of PDNPA

Sam reported that Phil had accepted our invitation in principle. Sam was keen to use the event to recruit new members as well as attracting existing members. It had been suggested that Phil speak at the AGM; Peter had concluded it should be a stand-alone event. It could be scoped as a public meeting, in Bakewell Town Hall. It was decided to leave the decisions on date, format and refining the subject to Bernard, Sam and a small group including Richard. ACTION SAM to take forward

8. Any other business

The licence for Canva, a DTP application, sat with Martin Pape. Kath had collected his papers and would check to see if there was any reference to our previous Canva a/c.

ACTION KATH

Peter pointed out his 3-year chairmanship was up in March next year and he wished to stand down. He had actually become Chair in July 2023, so he was open to a handover period.

Richard Tucker
12.2025