MINUTES

Committee Meeting
Wednesday, 21st May, 2025

Present:

Stuart Kirkman (Chair)	Stephen Doyle	Veronica Murphy
Robert Baker	Jim Farrell	Janice Parr
Pat Bright	Sue Jones	Ted Southworth
Jane Clarke	John Latham	Kate Williams
Roger Darling	Irene Molyneux	

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Marie Gornell and Michael Jolley.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday, 16th April, 2025 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by Stuart.

3. Matters Arising

3.1 It was reported that a United Trust Easy Access savings account has now been opened. Stuart and Sue are the required signatories on this account.

Stuart reported that the capitation fee, which was previously £3.50 per person, has now increased to £4.00. We have sufficient funds to cover this extra cost.

3.2 Following an expression of interest in the forming of a ballroom dancing group it was reported that a class is being run independently of the U3a in Hilldale by John Hodge who is a U3a member but in his capacity as Chair of Hilldale Community Association and is open to all. This will take place on a Tuesday afternoon.

4. Business Secretary's Report

The following document was received by designated officers –

- May update for U3a committees

The following documents were forwarded to committee members –

- U3a Friends' Newsletter
- North West Region of U3as – correction of email address
- North West Region Council Representatives newsletter

5. **Treasurers's Report**
   Roger had previously circulated this month's figures to the committee.

   It was reported that from 1st July if any group exceeds the fifteen minutes already allocated for setting up they will be charged for the extra time. This is because there are occasions when maintenance work is required to be carried out during this time. Information regarding this will be put in the newsletter.

6. **Requests for new equipment from Groups**
   Pat reported that she had only received one request from a group for new equipment. This was from the table tennis group and was for a new table tennis table at the cost of £629 including delivery. As the table tennis group has more than enough funds currently to cover this cost it was suggested that perhaps discussion could take place to pay part of the cost from the U3a funds. No final decision was made at this point.

7. **New projector and old projector**
   Stuart reported that a new projector has been purchased as the old one appeared to be broken. Janice very kindly took the old one home and gave it a good clean and it now works so we now have two working projectors. It was agreed that if any group wishes to borrow a projector they should use the old one.

8. **Roller blind in the Annexe**
   Stuart has discussed with the new Chair of MVH and Gurby regarding the replacement of the roller blind in the annexe. It was agreed that we will fund the cost of this being replaced. Stuart will contact David Mogg, photography group leader, to inform him of this as his group uses this.

9. **New screen**
   Stuart has managed to repair the existing screen but we will need to consider the purchase of a new one in the near future.

10. **Report from MVH Committee Meeting**
    Michael recently attended the MVH committee meeting as our representative. Jane reported the following on his behalf as he is away on holiday.

    - A new noticeboard will be erected outside the hall for use by all community groups. The MVH committee would request that all posters for display on the noticeboard be put into the letterbox outside the office.
    - The Hive heating system is to be installed this weekend. The system will be controlled from a tablet kept behind the bar. Michael was assured that the system will be set properly for all scheduled U3a events.

11. **Any Other Business**
    - Stuart reported that he was in receipt of an email from Trish Grimshaw who is the Parish Clerk of Mawdesley Parish Council who enquired whether our U3a would be interested in being involved in a project to walk the paths of Mawdesley in order to determine their

condition as some footpaths and rights of way are in a poor condition. It was generally agreed that this would be something we would be interested in being involved in and Stuart said he would respond to the email to this effect.

- Following discussion it was agreed that we would no longer make any charge for book exchanges.
- A request has been made by a solicitor from Wills on Wheels to come and have a consultation table at one of our community mornings in order that members could discuss wills. Following discussion it was felt that this was not appropriate.
- Stuart reported that in June 2026 it will be the 20th anniversary of our U3a. It was agreed by all that we should celebrate this event and Stuart asked that committee members give some thought as to the best way to do this.
- Stuart mentioned that Veronica had intended to take over Pat's role as Group Co-ordinator when Pat finishes her term with the committee in October. Sadly Veronica's husband is unwell and at least temporarily Veronica will not be undertaking this task. Stuart will give some thought regarding this and report back.
- The issue of labels identifying that certain chairs are reserved for the help desk was discussed. Stuart said that no labels are required.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday, 18th June, 2025

J. Clarke