BRIDGEND U3A

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16th July 2026 at 2.00pm at The Two Brewers, Brackla, Bridgend

PRESENT:, Keren Norbury, Maxine Silkstone, Denise Jones, Jan Kirby, Sheila Austin, Diane Ward, Mary Poland, Shirley Jones and John Williams

APOLOGIES: Carole McDonald

MINUTES of the last meeting were approved unanimously.

MATTERS ARISING: The gift to Rowena will be reviewed later when other matters sorted.

CHAIR'S REPORT: As we were having issues with the bank and the role of the Treasurer, John Williams had been asked to assist and he was willing to do so on the basis that he was a member of the committee so that he would be covered by the u3a insurance and the committee agreed that this was sensible and he was therefore proposed and unanimously seconded to be co-opted onto the committee. He will assist Max in getting the bank situation sorted and will assist the officers of the committee with workshops in relation to Beacon etc and upload anything we need to put on our website.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Max reported that she had had meetings with John and she had got the current account up to speed. Max reported that we currently have 116 members, but 2 of those were recent joins, so the number needing to be included in the overdue Annual Return was 114. Diane said that she had added a book club member to the membership, and was surprised she was able to and that she had given details to Max about another member who was not on Beacon as well. John confirmed that her website privileges will be altered so that the Treasurer will do those duties to be able to keep control of the process and avoid the confusion arising from 2026 joiners. John suggested that we needed more "technically confident" bank signatories; the addition of Max and Keren would meet that requirement, but in order to ensure we still had sufficient for signing cheques for speakers and expenses it was agreed the less technical ones should be retained for the timebeing, with possible revision at a later date.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Denise gave an update on the Annual Return situation and Max said that she had tried without success to get hold of the person at headquarters who could help with this and it was agreed that we would all work together to get this matter sorted asap and that it could be done now as we knew that our numbers are 114, so it was just a question of "how" to do it. John also said that Denise (as the only email addressee who received governance info) should email headquarters and give them the details of the new committee members so that the main office was up to date. Denise said that she would do this tomorrow.

SW NETWORK update. Denise informed the committee of an email she had received from Nicky Lee confirming dates for future meetings, the first of which was the All Wales u3as meeting on the 2nd November in Newtown which both Keren and Max said that they would like to attend. Denise is to inform Nicky of this. There was also a Chairs/Secretaries meeting set up for February 2027 by zoom and the All Wales u3as meeting in May 2027 both of these meeting details have yet to be circulated. The email also stated that they were proceeding with ongoing matters at Council, one of which included help for smaller u3as and Denise was asked to find out what help this would consist of. The email also confirmed that the results of the Age Cymru

survey on people over 50 was now on their website and can be seen on https://www.agecymru.wales/our-work/policy/annual-survey/ and that there is a course starting on the 21st July 2026 on healthy ageing for life and if anyone wants to sign up they should do so on https://openss.qualtrics.com/fe/form/SV and it would agreed that Denise would circulate this on Beacon to members if they would like to join.

SPEAKERS GOING FORWARD : Jan confirmed that she had already booked a variety of speakers for 2027 with only 2 months to fill and she gave the committee a list and all look very good so Well Done Jan.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: (1) Rowena had approached the committee with a request for funding for production of a history booklet. There would be many people who would be able to have a free copy. It was agreed that she should obtain quotes but that in principle the request could be accepted.**(2)** Keren said that she and Max had thought that we all ought to put our thinking caps on over the next few months to try and come up with some ideas for publicising our u3a which brought the conversation back to could we get more groups up and going. **(3)** Mary brought up that she was still down as the Membership Liaison Officer and after discussion when the committee all agreed that Mary was a good choice for this role with her knowledge of all the members etc and she agreed to retain the title. **(4)** Shirley said that she was unaware of any members taking charge for the teas etc. Keren said that she would check with Carole who had volunteered to organise the teas rota. **(5)** Discussion over who was going to cover the Dunelm coffee morning on 13th August and Sheila, Jan, Mary and Shirley all volunteered.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING: The next committee meeting will be held at the Two Brewers at 2.00pm on Tuesday the 8th September 2026. Denise informed the committee that she would be on holiday on that date so someone else would need to take the Minutes.

Meeting ended at 3.31pm