

Minutes of Great Glen, Oadby & Wigston u3a Committee

3rd February 2026 in the Ruth Warner Room, Great Glen Methodist Church at 2:15pm

Present : Peter Williams, June Juett, Roger Edwards, Elizabeth Cooke, Janet Fanko, Robert Mansfield, Cherry Thacker, Noelene Sapiro and Lynda Williams.

1. Peter Williams welcomed the Committee.
2. Minutes of Meeting 6th January 2026 were approved.

3. Matters Arising/Action Points

- The New Members Meeting was very well received.
- PW has spoken to the Financial Examiner and written confirmation from him has been received.
- The return for the Charity Commission has gone in. LW has spoken to the Charity Commission and the return sent had been accepted. No further returns are required until 31/01/2027.
- RE said that we may need to map the Charity Commission requirements to our annual report.
- Updating of groups has been done by EC
- The storage for the Ukulele Group has been resolved.
- PW has visited the Carpet Bowls Group and has produced a laminated card for Safer Handling Instructions

AP PW will email this information to RE to update the Risk Register

AP At the next Speaker Meeting EC will give a 'shout out' for potential new members of the History, Walking and Books Groups.

4. Membership Matters JF

- Membership = 542 as at 31/01/25
- 4 members have resigned.
- 14 new members in January 2026
- 48 associates
- Currently 365 do not take the u3a magazine
- Renewals planned to go out in the 3rd week of February 2026. JF and NS are currently working on preparation for the New Membership year

5. Finance Matters RE

- The first rent increase has come through from Burton Overy. A sum of £400pa from 01/04/26 (a rise of £2 per hour)
- RE has prepared published accounts. There is a current surplus of £1,500.
- After discussion it was decided to go with a donation free month for March, April or May.

AP RE will check the figures and bring findings to next Committee Meeting to decide on which month is appropriate.

- PW suggested that the wording from the independent Financial Examiner needed rewording.

AP RE to check the document.

- Our Assets Value will go into our published accounts.

AP RE will double check the accounts.

6. Gift Aid RE

- Nothing to report.

7. Theatre Outing PW

- PW suggested another Theatre Outing to the Little Theatre to see a performance of "Baskerville". There is a matinee on Saturday 13th June. After discussion it was decided for PW to book 10 seats

in the first instance.

8. Pet Dogs on Walks RM

- After discussion it was decided to adopt a Pet Dogs on Walks Policy

AP RM to research and download a policy to be worded for our GGOW u3a to bring to next Committee Meeting.

9. Keys to New Locker at Great Glen Church Rooms PW & RE

- There are 6 keys to the new locker. PW and JJ have one each and JF (Ukulele Group Leader) has two. One key will go to RE and one is to remain on church premises.

AP RE to place the key in a suitable place onsite.

- There are no new keys available for the Church premises. Users can use the safe box at JJs

10. Group Co-Ordinator's Report EC

- Some groups are in need of new members – Zoom Quiz for example. This will be featured in the Newsletter in FOCUS ON.

- The New Members appreciated the list of groups available and were complimentary.

- The purchase of an A3 laminator and pouches has been made. It will require PAT testing. EC suggested a sign in/sign out book for the equipment.

- RE reminded the Committee that our policy is that Groups pay for their consumables from their Group funds. However as have some groups eg Play reading, Handbells and Singing for fun who seem to need a regular supply of consumables, we may wish to change this. We now have funds we would like to consider a policy of offering to use u3a central funds instead.

AP After discussion it was decided that EC and RE collaborate on a proposed policy for the issue of consumables (printing and laminating pouches).

Copyright Advice RM

- RM had prepared a document regarding Copyright Advice. This affects some groups more than others – History, Quizzes, Art Appreciation and Psychology for example – but we all need to be aware.

- After discussion it was decided to add a reference to the National u3a website for those seeking further advice.

AP RM to amend the document.

- If any GroupLeader requires advice they can go to EC initially. Any issues can be brought to the Committee by EC if needed.

Carpet Bowls PW

- There is a new pavilion at the Bowmen of Glen Archery which could be a potential temporary venue for the Carpet Bowls group. This is because the Great Glen Village Hall is closing at the end of April/beginning of May for planned works.

- The pavilion is still waiting for toilets and a kitchen to be added.

AP PW to visit the site on Thursday 5th February

11. Potential New Groups (ALL)

- There is a spreadsheet on Dropbox.

- Numbers for potential groups are as follows :

BSL 32	Play Reading 23
--------	-----------------

Debating/Current Affairs 21	Singing for Fun 49
Walking Further (5-8 miles) 12	

- We may need to look at Oadby for potential venues
- AP PW After discussion it was decided that PW would speak to the potential leader and accompanist for Singing for Fun to arrange a meeting to discuss the format, timing and venue
- There is a potential Group Leader for Debating/Current Affairs. The Ruth Warner room is a possible venue on a Wednesday afternoon.
- PW has extensively researched a tutor for BSL. We may need to pay an independent accredited tutor. The venue is possibly Oadby or Wigston. NS offered to take on the leadership/admin of the group. Other names were suggested.
- A potential leader for the Play Reading has offered. JF has also offered to do the register etc for the group. Texts used by Melton Mowbray u3a are from the BBC. National Office also has resources. It was suggested that devices (tablets) could be purchased so that members of this group could use them.
- AP CT to ring the Oadby Tennis Club and The Kube at Leicester Racecourse to ask regarding availability of rooms for 12 approx people, tea and coffee facilities, toilets and car parking.
- AP RM, EC and JF to convene an initial meeting at a venue to be decided before the next Committee Meeting regarding the Play Reading Group.
- AP For the Walking Further Group EC to follow up those who have expressed interest via email to see who may be interested in whatever role for the group and if they are prepared to lead a walk.

12. Business Secretary's Report LW

- The return for the Charity Commission has gone in. LW has spoken to the Charity Commission and the return sent had been accepted. No further returns are required until 31/01/2027.

Business Cycle Policies

- The review is to be completed and presented at the next Committee Meeting for which RM offered his support.
- The Register of policies will also be checked to see what we will review each month to keep it manageable.

13. Newsletter JJ

- Nothing to report. All running smoothly.

14. Pastoral Role CT

- CT mentioned a suggestion from a member who raised the possibility of a person to be responsible for sending Bereavement cards, Significant Birthday cards etc to members. The Committee discussed this suggestion and it was felt that there were potentially too many practical issues – even though it's a lovely idea. It was decided not to go forward with this suggestion.

15. Any Other Urgent Business

RM reminded the Committee that there is a Network Meeting on the 16th February hosted by Syston u3a which RM and PW will attend.

16. Next Meeting : Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 2:15pm. Ruth Warner Room