Minutes of Great Glen,Oadby & Wigston u3a Committee
7th July 2026 in the Ruth Warner Room, Great Glen Methodist Church at 2:15pm

Present : Robert Mansfield, Roger Edwards, Elizabeth Cooke, Janet Fanko, Cherry Thacker, June Juett and Noelene Sapiro. Also present were Sue Howard and Shrivatsa Desai as Guest Observers.

Apologies were received from Peter Williams

1. Robert Mansfield as Vice Chair led the Committee Meeting in Peter Williams absence. He welcomed the Committee who introduced themselves to our guest observers Sue Howard and Shrivatsa Desai.

2. Minutes of Meeting 2nd June 2026 were approved.

Matters Arising/Action Points

AP PW to email TAT and clarify regarding the cut off point for members who have paid their 12 month subscription - but had resigned or were deceased.

EC suggested that the Group Leaders having a Deputy be deferred to the Group Leaders Meeting in October. This was agreed by the Committee.

AP PW to email and ask for more information regarding the opportunity with Hearing Research before any commitment is made.

Point 5 Finance Matters. RE has changed the information on the website and printed material and JJ has updated the Newsletter regarding Serendipity and the consumables.

Point 6 October Free Meetings Publicity. RM has written a blurb for the Newsletter regarding the free month.

Point 8 Group Co-Ordinator's Report. EC created lists of groups who may have issues with Copyright and emailed the Committee. There had been several replies.

Point 11 Business Secretary's Report. PW has delivered a card and flowers to LW in thanks for all her hard work for GGOW u3a.

Point 12 Review of Procedures for Discipline and Complaints against Members. RM/CT. This Policy has been amended but not yet presented to the Committee for their consideration. Therefore, the current policy will stand as a Panel is pending.

Point 13 Newsletter PW has created an insert for the Newsletter upon our reaching 500+ members.

3. Governance Matters

3.1 It was agreed that Committee roles need to be deferred until the return of PW as Chair.

3.2 It was further decided to leave LW as unchanged for the time being as Business Secretary.

AP RM to email LW to ask that if anything comes through via email to be forwarded to him.

4. Membership Matters JF

- Membership = 504 (30.06.26)
- 2 new members in June.
- 45 new members since January 2026
- 47 associates
- Currently 349 do not take the u3a magazine
- RE explained to SD that £4 for every Full Member of their subscription is for the

subscription to the Third Age Trust
- JF has emailed TAT regarding the Data Submission of the TAT magazine and is waiting for a reply as the due date is approaching.
- Some u3a's have bought into new software called 'Simple Membership' – which was mentioned at the recent Network Meeting.
- AP RM to contact our Regional Councillors regarding alternatives to BEACON for going forwards.
- RM highlighted that we need to recruit more members due to losing 10/15% of members per annum.
- SH commented on the quality of material on the u3a website for Recruitment and Marketing.
- EC suggested the power of 'word of mouth' recommendation of the u3a.

5. Finance Matters RE
- £28,000 in the bank.
- There are TAT grants available for recruitment.
- Recent registers show most groups are NOT breaking even – which could be a seasonal issue and some are close to increasing their donation rate.
- Handbells, for example, have ½ the members they started with.
- The main hall rent at the Great Glen Methodist Church for example is £32 for 3 hours.
- 2 groups play at the University – Pickleball and Table Tennis. We need to make each group aware that it is responsible for the payment for consumables.
- There was a discussion about what are consumables and what is equipment.
- RM felt that RE had made a point of principle.
- AP EC to contact the Pickleball and Table Tennis groups to ask how often Pickleball balls and Table Tennis balls are replaced and their cost. Also to find out these costs per year.
- We have 4 bank accounts and 5 signatories. LW is a named signatory on the long term deposit account and the current account one. We need a replacement signatory. Signing cheques/on-line authorisation is a weekly job.
- RE suggested deferring this until the Committee Roles are defined. This matter will be held over until the August agenda.

5.1 Gift Aid
- Nothing to report. We ensure HMRC are kept up to date.

6. Group Co-Ordinator's Report EC
- EC feels that we need to thoroughly discuss Copyright as people who are giving talks can feel concerned.
- All Group Leaders to see the PowerPoint Presentation created – possibly at the Group Leaders Meeting later in the year.
- Printing materials for groups can be discouraged. Remember to Attribute – don't Distribute.
- RM suggested a statement/policy
- AP JJ and EC to collaborate on preparing something for the next Committee Meeting so as to be ready for the Group Leaders Meeting.
- EC suggested that the Walking Further Group fold due to very low numbers.

- **6.1 Song Books for Singing for Fun Group**

- JJ reported that all folders have now been removed as most songs were affected by Copyright. There is now a list of songs which are not affected.
- 2 published songbooks were suggested and the purchasing of 20 copies of '101 Acoustic Hits for Buskers' was agreed by a majority of the Committee.

6.2 Debating Group Update

- RM reported on a Disciplinary matter and suggested the name of this group could be changed to Discussion Group going forward.
- When the matter is resolved RM will advise the Committee.

7. Group Leaders Meeting

- This has been booked for Friday 2nd October at the Wigston Liberal Club from 11am to 12:30pm. The agenda will follow but could include Copyright and the suggestion of Leaders having a Deputy Leader.
- AP EC to email Group Leaders giving advance notice of the date and venue.
- AP RE to purchase M&S vouchers for those being recognised.

8. PAT Testing

- JJ advised that the equipment requires being re-calibrated annually at a cost of £90 which was agreed unanimously by the Committee.

9. Business Secretary's Report LW

- Nothing to report.

10. Review of Policies

10.1 Procedures for Discipline and Complaints Against Members will be held over until an ongoing matter is resolved.

- AP CT to email the Committee with the list compiled in March 2026 of which members are reviewing which policies.

11. Newsletter JJ

- Nothing to report, all is going smoothly.

12. Network Meeting 22/06/26 RM/CT

- 10 Leicestershire and Rutland u3a's attended and 1 sent an apology.
- The Network seems to be moving forward
- 2 Regional Councillors attended – Rosie Allen and John Butler.
- Whitwick u3a has kindly agreed to host the next meeting.

AP CT to email the Committee with the names of those u3a's who attended.

13. AOB

- NS advised that Serendipity will take an August break.
- RE reported that the AGM Minutes have been uploaded to Dropbox.
- RE advised that there is a u3a week in September. It may be possible for the GGOW u3a to have a presence at the Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race.
- SH added that visibility raises our profile.
- EC suggested walking around the venue with leaflets,talking to prospective new members and raising awareness.
- JF stated that the event is on Saturday 5th September from Midday to 5pm and the price of a pitch is £10

- AP RM to investigate a potential booking for the event.
- RM mentioned that Syston u3a had been approached by their local council to do a presentation on their charitable organisation. Something for us to perhaps consider?
- CT raised Paper R – the TAT AGM Resolution for the Committee to consider.
- SH and SD both thanked the Committee for their invitation to observe.

14. Next meeting : Tuesday 4th August 2026 at 2:15 p.m Ruth Warner Room