

Minutes of Great Glen, Oadby & Wigston u3a Committee
4th August 2026 in the Ruth Warner Room, Great Glen Methodist Church at 2:15pm

Present : Peter Williams, Robert Mansfield, Roger Edwards, Elizabeth Cooke, Janet Fanko, Cherry Thacker, June Juett and Sue Howard

Apologies were received from Noelene Sapiro

1. PW welcomed the Committee and thanked everyone for their very kind support during his absence.
2. Minutes of Meeting 7th July 2026 were approved.

Matters Arising/Action Points

PW had emailed TAT regarding the cut-off date for determining the number of full members to be declared - but had resigned or were deceased. The advice is that if the member is fully paid up on 31st March then we have to declare them.

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

Point 3 Governance

RM has emailed LW regarding anything coming through via email but has heard nothing from her.

Point 4 Membership Matters

RM has contacted our Regional Councillors who are looking into alternatives to Beacon, such as Simple Membership. The TAT is looking at replacing Beacon and the website with a linked system.

Point 5 Finance Matters

EC has contacted the Pickleball and Table Tennis Groups regarding the costs of Pickleball balls and Table Tennis balls. Table Tennis replaces them infrequently and has sufficient stock currently. Pickleball purchase 6-8 balls every 6 months at a cost of £12:99 for 6 - equivalent to £25:98 per year.

This led to a discussion on consumables- paper for printing etc. As per our Policy we do not pay for consumables. Group Leaders collect money from group members for consumables.

Point 6 Group Co-Ordinator's Report

EC and JJ have collaborated on advice regarding Copyright. This is Point 7 on the Agenda today.

EC has notified Group Leaders of the date of the meeting for October.

Point 10 Review of Policies

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

AP CT to email JF and SH the Policy list of who is reviewing which policies and which u3as in the Leicestershire & Rutland Network attended the recent meeting held in South Wigston.

Point 13 AOB

RM has booked a pitch for the Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race event on Saturday 5th September.

3. Governance Matters PW

3.1 Co-option of Susan Howard. The Committee agreed unanimously to co-opt Susan Howard to the Committee.

3.2 Committee Roles 2026/2027

Peter Williams	Chair
Robert Mansfield	Vice Chair
Janet Fanko and Noelene Sapiro	Membership
June Juett	Newsletter
Elizabeth Cooke	Groups Co-Ordinator
Roger Edwards	Treasurer
Sue Howard	Business Secretary
Cherry Thacker	Minutes

There was a discussion regarding the role of the Business Secretary.

AP RE to invite SH to share the u3a Dropbox folder.

SH also needs to be registered with the Charity Commission.

AP PW to contact LW for guidance in registering SH as a Trustee and Business Secretary.

AP PW to contact Peter Russell to get Sue added to the Officers showing under the Beacon System. Also to update the website by removing Lynda Williams and replacing with Sue under Committee members.

AP RE to add Sue as a Trustee of the u3a.

4. Membership Matters JF

- 507 members as at 31/07/26
- 48 new members since January 2026
- 47 Associate members.
- 351 do not take the magazine.

The Committee discussed an issue regarding a market research organisation who had been in touch with JF. After discussion, it was felt that as we could not vouch for this organisation it was not felt to be suitable.

5. Finance Matters RE

- There has been a cyber attack on our CAF bank account which has been causing issues. For the last fortnight our account was unusable. On Tuesday 4th August the system was available – however, the Treasurer could not log in, but the Membership Secretary could. Our funds are safe. Payments to be paid in and payments going out of the account may be delayed.
- £28,000 is in the bank.
- A rent increase at the University is coming up at a cost of £150 per year.

6. Group Co-Ordinator's Report EC

- The Walking Further group is currently dormant and likely to remain so.
- EC and JJ have collaborated on a Major Points for Compliance document for our groups about Copyright and Attribution. The plan is to have something clear and accessible for Group Leaders. At the upcoming Group Leaders Meeting this information can be delivered to reassure them. This document will be uploaded onto the website on the Group Leaders page after the meeting.
- If Group Leaders are in any doubt on Copyright issues they should ask for advice.
- There is a concern regarding Copyright with items on our website as this is available to the general public. However, this is overseen by Peter Russell, so he is aware of the provenance of what he uploads. He also provides website editor training. Group Leaders may however, upload incorrect material.
- **AP EC/JJ to issue a reminder at the Group Leaders Meeting.**

6.1 Writing for Pleasure Group RM

- RM asked the Committee for approval for the printing of 50 copies of the booklet for this year at an estimated cost of £120. 10 would be given to contributors and 40 would be sold at £5 per copy raising £200. Approved by the Committee.
- The Committee approved the disposal of booklets from previous years. The stock would be provided to local venues,
- **AP PW to provide GGOW u3a promotional stickers after advice from RM.**

6.2 Singing for Fun JJ

- JJ asked the Committee for approval for 10 more copies of the singing book previously purchased for Singing for Fun. Approved by the Committee.
- There are folders for the group to use containing traditional and ancient songs which are out of Copyright.

6.3 Discussion Group update RM

- Now renamed Discussion Group
- Disciplinary action and a Hearing have been ongoing. It is now in the Appeals period.
- SH said to thank those who've dealt with this difficult task.
- The group is now at 6 members – so its continuation is vulnerable.

7. Group Leaders Meeting PW

- The Wigston Liberal Club has been booked for Friday 2nd October from 11am to 12:30
- Committee members to arrive at 10:30
- Meet and greet from 10:45
- Agenda suggestions will be sought from Group Leaders
- Agenda suggestions include : group sustainability, leadership styles, copyright, recognition awards, GDPR,
- **AP CT to email suggestions we've discussed to Committee**

8. Business Secretary's Report RM

8.1 National AGM voting RM

- National voting at the AGM is coming up. SH needs access to the TAT portal so that she can vote on our behalf.

9. Great Glen Wheelbarrow Race PW/RM

- Saturday 5th September from 12 noon until 5pm.
- Setting up from midday, closing around 4pm.
- Committee members walking around talking to people, raising our profile.
- 2 members to set up/take down display with photos, tables, gazebo etc
- 20 extra Newsletters
- 50 Group lists with contacts in Location order.
- Writing for Pleasure booklets
- **AP RE to change contact person for Play Reading to Magi Nipper instead of Robert on the contact list.**
- **AP RE to send PW a master copy of the updated contact list for printing.**
- **AP PW x2 tables and bunting**
- **AP RE Gazebo, sandbags, display boards, bunting, tabards and TAT magazines**

TIME	COMMITTEE MEMBERS
11:30AM - 1PM	PW EC RE
1PM - 3PM	SH CT
3PM - 5PM	RM JF

10. **Review of Policies RM**

- This will be held over until the next Committee meeting due to an ongoing matter.

10. **Newsletter JJ**

- JJ to include Free October month for groups.

10. **Great Glen u3a Archive Materials RM**

- The Committee discussed as to what to do with the materials from Great Glen u3a prior to the amalgamation.
- **AP RM to bring materials to the next Committee meeting.**
- EC suggested a digital archive from the recent History group meeting of a presentation of "The History of Great Glen".
- PW suggested a digital archive on Dropbox
- **AP RM to contact the creator of the presentation regarding its safe preservation and storage.**

13. **AOB**

- RE mentioned the Poetry Competition for the Writing for Pleasure group
- **AP RM to create a piece for the Newsletter. Regarding the Poetry Competition previously discussed. This is to use a generous legacy from Sam Muir, a previous member of the group who wrote beautiful poetry.**
- RE mentioned Recruitment which will go on the agenda for the next Committee Meeting. A draft Recruitment Strategy was suggested.
- SH asked regarding any hard copies of material from LW.

14. **Next meeting Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 2:15 p.m Ruth Warner room.**