

**MINUTES OF THE 132nd COMMITTEE MEETING OF STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH u3a,
HELD IN METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, LONGTON, AT 2pm ON THURSDAY 10th JULY
2025.**

PRESENT

Andrew Devin	Chairman
Keith Ward	Vice-Chairman
Phil Rowley	Secretary/Publicity Lead
Alan Stevenson	Membership Secretary
Kevin Ford	Deputy Treasurer
Beverley Maher	Entertainments Co-ordinator
Joe Neilson	Committee Member

1. APOLOGIES

Lynne Stevenson, Pauline Williams, Diane Ellis.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 12th June 2025 were approved, and signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

a. u3a Trust matters

1. The CEO has welcomed Karen Green as the new Chair of *Network Link*. She takes over from Sue Russell, who is now Chair of the u3a Council

2. The Trust has some vacant roles on the Governance and Finance committees.

3. The day of this meeting is the day that Vice Chair nominations close. The branch chairman has confirmed that we are registered to vote.

4. The Trust is aware that members are interested in seeing more photos of younger members in the image library. They are consequently offering a photoshoot to any branches who can help.

5. The Trust's annual end of year finance report is now available to read.

6. Copyright Licencing Agency (CLA) Licence Renewal for 2025/2026 is now due. The cost for purchasing a new CLA licence, covering 1st August 2025 to 31st July 2026, is £69.37. The committee agreed that there was a need to renew.

7. The chairman confirmed that he had completed the online survey from the Trust, asking for views on how the Trust is run. He also confirmed that he again had access to the Trust Portal.

LS

b. Regional matters

1. A Regional Zoom meeting is to be held on Thursday 10 July, 4pm-5pm. The theme of the event will be to ask members what actions would benefit u3as now and in the future, and what help if any, u3as need from the Trust.

2. The two council members are asking branches to help them spread the word about what's happening in the West Midlands. Consequently, they are looking to form a Communications team, and are asking for members with relevant skills.

3. The Regional Newsletter referenced that Cheadle u3a had introduced Pre-Paid Session Cards, that would obviate the need for paying cash at group meetings. There was no enthusiasm from the committee to further examine arrangements.

4. The Newsletter also asked that members be made aware of a current scam whereby criminals are continuing to impersonate the Government's Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Criminals are claiming to be from DWP and sending out texts urging people to 'apply' for their Winter Fuel Payments. Details will be included in the July Branch Newsletter.

5. The National u3a Week is 20-28 September 2025.

AD

c. Amended Branch Constitution

Following the agreed amendment to the Constitution at the AGM, there is a legal obligation to provide all relevant details to the Charities Commission. Since the Treasurer had submitted an apology, and there was uncertainty whether the documents had been submitted. AS agreed to follow up.

LS/AS

5. SECRETARY'S REPORT

PR stated that he had responded to correspondents contained in the June minutes. There were no matters to report at the current meeting.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

a AS distributed a Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 9th July 2025 on behalf of the Treasurer. Details were as follows:

	£	
Current	858.62	Balance 2025/26
	17,869.46	B/F from 2024/25
	£18,728.08	TOTAL BALANCE

b (i) After perusal, the committee confirmed that the financial health of the branch remained strong.

7. **MEMBERSHIP OFFICER'S REPORT**

AS stated that, as at the date of the meeting, the number of members for the new subscription year was 384, of which 28 were new members.

8. **GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

A number of matters were discussed that were of interest to the committee.

1. Family History meetings for the month of July have been cancelled. They will resume on 1st August.

2. The Flower Arranging group have decided to take their traditional summer break. The last group meeting will be held on 14th July, and the group will resume on 15th September. Confirmatory details will be recorded in the July Newsletter and the website.

AD

3. The June Newsletter contained a general request to members to express their interest in two potential new groups, viz. Backgammon and Seated Yoga. AD reported that 5 members are currently interested in the Seated Yoga, but there has been no interest in Backgammon. The committee agreed that this should be an agenda item at the August sitting.

AD

4. The group leader of the Indoor Kurling group has written to the chairman explaining that there is a need to purchase 2 new sets of bearings. The total cost will be £34.95. After a short discussion, the committee authorised the purchase. AD will contact the group leader to confirm authorisation and ensure that an invoice is obtained.

AD

9. **ENTERTAINMENTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT**

a **Denny review**

Feedback from members who attended the presentation on 26th June was very positive, with 29 smiley faces and 3 good. The committee were of the opinion that the presentation was something different.

b **Bookings, etc.**

1. Phillip Evans, a clinical hypnotist, has been booked for 31st July. His presentation is titled "The power of the unconscious mind."

2. On 28th August, "Crafternoon Tea" will again be directed by a number of committee members, but aided by relevant group members.

3. BM has booked Caroline Spiers for 25th September. Caroline is the daughter of Rita Baines who delivered planes to the RAF during the Second World War. This will be the theme of her talk.

4. The committee had previously agreed that BM could book Chris Austin for the November (pre-Christmas) gathering. Unfortunately, he is not now available. Alternatives will be discussed at the August committee sitting.

5. BM confirmed that she had submitted feedback to Ray Johnson, following his presentation on 24th April. Comments were received from seven u3a members.

10. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT

1. It had been commented in the last two Regional Newsletters, that they were advertising for a new Publicity Lead and team. The committee therefore sought clarity from PR because they considered him to be the incumbent. Having undertaken the Regional PR role for the past two years, and having attended all the zoom meetings, PR is of the opinion that the new role is quite different to the one he signed up to. PR has therefore decided to inform the Regional Officers of his wish to stand down.

PR

2. AS reported that the Photography group leader had noticed that the subject was not included in the latest branch publicity leaflet. PR agreed to correct and issued the changed copy to those relevant.

PR

11. CATERING

There were no matters to report.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. AD stated that he had received a request from an officer representing the Keele World Affairs Season to place an advert in our monthly Newsletter. After a short discussion the request was authorised.

AD

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th August 2025.

The meeting was formally closed at 3.35pm.

Chairman: *A. J. Devin*

Date: *14th August 2025*