MINUTES OF THE 141st COMMITTEE MEETING OF STOKE-ON-TRENT SOUTH u3a, HELD IN METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, LONGTON, AT 2pm ON THURSDAY 11th JUNE 2026.

PRESENT

Andrew Devin	Chairman
Kevin Ford	Vice-Chairman
Lynne Stevenson	Treasurer
Alan Stevenson	Secretary
Joe Neilson	General Committee Member

1. APOLOGIES

Diane Ellis.

2. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous committee meeting held on 9th April 2026 were approved, and signed by the chairman as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

4. ALLOCATION OF COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Chairman	Andrew Devin
Vice-Chairman	Kevin Ford
Treasurer	Lynne Stevenson
Secretary	Alan Stevenson
Membership Secretary	Alan Stevenson
Deputy Treasurer	Kevin Ford
Groups Co-ordinator	Diane Ellis
Entertainments Co-ordinator	Andrew Devin
Publicity Officer	All Committee
Catering Officer	Diane Ellis
New Member Liaison	All Committee
Minutes Secretary	Andrew Devin
Facebook/Twitter	Pat Winfield
Newsletter Editor	Andrew Devin
Webmaster	Andrew Devin
Bank Signatories/Funding	Lynne Stevenson, Andrew Devin, and Kevin Ford
Data Protection	Andrew Devin
Equal Opportunities	All Committee
Safeguarding	All Committee

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed attendees to the start of a new committee year, and thanked them for their willingness to take on important committee roles, albeit most were taking on more than one position.

(a) AGM review/draft minutes

The chairman considered that the meeting went very well. There were no dissenting voices from the membership regarding the elections to the committee. He was, nonetheless, disappointed that there was no interest from the membership to join the committee, and hence alleviate individual burdens.

The chairman had prepared the draft minutes of the AGM prior to the present meeting, and distributed them to the committee. The Chairman asked for the accuracy to be confirmed. No changes were proposed, and the chairman was authorised to place the minutes onto the website. These minutes will be discussed by the membership and authorised by them during the 2027 AGM. **AD**

b. <u>u3a Trust matters</u>

1. The previous week had been National V*olunteers' Week*, accordingly the Trust Chief Executive thanked everyone for the work they do for their u3as.

2. The Trust has recently opened up applications for Non-Executive Director roles on the Trust's Trading Board. The Trust would like to hear from anyone who is interested in a volunteer role on a national level.

3. The Trust also needs volunteers with digital skills and experience to join their Digital Services Advisory Group.

4. This year's AGM will again be a hybrid meeting, and will be held at The Midland Hotel, 16 Peter St, Manchester M60 2DS, on Wednesday 14th October 2026.

5. The annual Copyright Licensing Agency (CLA) licence for 2026/27, is now due. The fee is £72 and the new licence will start on 1st August 2026. The committee authorised this payment. **LS**

6. This year's u3a essay competition is now live. Writers must take the reader on a remarkable real-life journey, of discovery, adventure or transformation in fewer than 1000 words. Entry is free and open to all u3a members. The Deadline is 31st July 2026. The prizes of book bundles have been donated by *HX Expeditions*.

c. <u>Regional matters</u>

Sue Russell, Chair of the National u3a Council, is holding the West Midlands Workshop-day on Tuesday 16th June at the Trinity Centre in Sutton Coldfield from 10.00am – 3.45pm. The event is fully funded by the Third Age Trust and lunch and refreshments will be provided. The closing date was Sunday 7th June. The main theme of the Workshop will be "Motivating Members to Volunteer."

6. <u>SECRETARY / MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT</u>

AS stated that at the date of the meeting, the total persons in membership was 370, which compared similarly to 374 at June 2025.
It was pleasing to note that the branch had received 340 renewals to date.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

a Treasurer, LS, distributed a Statement of Income and Expenditure as at 10th June 2026. Details were as follows:

	£	
Current	1,250.80	Balance 2026/27
	18,374.34	B/F from 2025/26
	£19,625.14	**TOTAL BALANCE**

b (i) The Treasurer confirmed that the total balance was at its highest value early in every year due to the receipt of annual subscriptions from 1st April. The financial health of the branch continues to be very strong.

(ii) A schedule of individual group income relative to room hire costs, for the financial year 2025/26, was distributed to committee members present for their perusal. LS observed that there was very little difference between annual room hire costs and annual groups income. The difference being some -£62 only. The longstanding committee policy of supporting loss-making groups was confirmed.

8. GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

Although newly appointed co-ordinator, DE, had submitted an apology, she had written to the chairman requesting a list of duties and responsibilities for the post. AD agreed to provide her with the role specification. **AD**

DE also requested a copy of the "Group Leaders Guide." AD agreed to amend the Cover Sheet of the guide and submit it to LS who will supply DE with a full pack. **AD/LS**

The committee agreed with DE's Suggestion that she should visit each group in the coming weeks to introduce herself. AD considered that each visit could provide an excellent opportunity to appeal to many more able and willing members to join the committee. AD will convey these thoughts to DE. **AD**

9. ENTERTAINMENTS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

AD is undertaking this role until a replacement can be found.

a U3a Ukulele group - AGM

The committee expressed its thanks to both the retiring co-ordinator and the Ukulele group for reacting on the morning of the AGM, so ensuring that the branch had musical entertainment after the meeting. It was unfortunate that Holly Reynolds fell ill on the morning of the meeting.

b Bookings, etc.

1. We welcome Phil Colclough on 25th June whose presentation is titled "Beautiful Britain." Phil will show numerous photographs of beautiful landscapes, accompanied with music. AD will liaise with Phil regarding equipment requirements. **AD**

2. Jon Heal has been booked for 30th July. The title is "The photographs of William Blake of Longton." Again, AD will liaise regarding equipment. **AD**

3. Following a short discussion about “Meet and Greet” arrangements for guest speakers, LS opined that we should ask for a regular attendee at monthly meetings to undertake this task. AD responded that the outgoing vice-chairman had indicated that he was prepared to undertake this type of task, but was not specific. AD will obtain clarification before progressing the matter. **AD**

10. CATERING

DE had submitted a prior meeting apology.

11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. DE had written to the chairman prior to the meeting suggesting that the committee should have a “get together meal” to show thanks to recently retired members of the committee. As an alternative, she proposed that long serving members should be provided with a gift.

The committee held a short discussion and decided that the gift provision would be the preferred option. LS will make the appropriate arrangements. **LS**

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

9th July 2026.

The meeting was formally closed at 3.12pm.

Chairman: *A. J. Devin* Date: *9th July 2026*