

Kings Norton & District



Minutes of the Committee Meeting

Tuesday 17 March 2026

Present: Vicki Hone, Pauline Amor, John Bowen, Pauline George, Anne Jones, Roger Jones, Graeme Lanfear, Chris Locke, Elaine Morton and Val Stowell.

		Actions
1.	Welcome & Apologies (VH) VH welcomed all to the committee meeting. Apologies had been received from Lorna Brown and Mary Watson. Mary Watson is in hospital and it was agreed that Jane Evans would be asked to send a card.	PG
2.	Minutes of the February 2026 committee meeting (VH) The minutes were accepted and it was agreed that they could be posted to the website. Following her visit to the last committee meeting Elaine Morton has joined the committee and is to become a trustee. She will be added to the committee circulation list.	AJ
3.	Matters arising (VH) Item 6 All memberships removed, except Individual memberships. See agenda item 8 below Item 7 The new Network membership application form is now available on the website, as are the Moseley & Kings Heath and Harborne & Edgbaston on their websites. Item 10 VH reported that LB had been in contact with the Birmingham University undergraduate and was unsure if she had received a response as yet. Item 13 PG does not intend to respond to the survey and would forward the email to CL.	PG
4.	Chair's Report (VH) The only significant issue to note was that no nominations had been received for the 2 vacant West Midlands u3a Council positions. VH noted that it was unclear how this would impact the u3as in the West Midlands. She speculated that it might be the time commitment (estimated as 2 days per week) that had put off volunteers.	
5.	Committee members and roles (VH) VH thanked those who had confirmed that they would be standing again for committee. The role of Business Secretary will be vacant and VH would also like to see the position of VC filled, with a view to developing that person for the role of Chair after she steps down at sometime in the future.	
6.	Treasurer's report and Accounts for February 2026 (CL)	

CL had circulated a financial report for the year end to 28 February prior to the committee meeting. Overall the finances are in good shape. The reserves at 28 February were £11,120, since when £2,829 in membership fees for 2026/27 have been received. The bank balance at 15 March 2026 was £14,060. There was a catch up of costs for room hire at the BQMH and studio (German Conversation IG) in February and March respectively, otherwise remaining transactions should be in line with normal monthly costs. Overall position for Interest Groups are expected to be broadly in balance. CL would like monies from the IGs to be in before 31 March. The end of year bank balance may be slightly higher than last year, but that will depend on the level of membership renewals for the rest of March. CL reported that the PayPal account was up and running. It was successfully linked to the Barclays Bank account. One member (testing the system) had paid their renewal fees through it. Renewal online through PayPal will be available from 1 April. CL requested clarification as to whom the automatic notification of PayPal payment was sent (LB as Membership Secretary?)	LB
7. Gift Aid and HMRC (CL) CL advised that u3a National Office had issued revised guidance concerning Gift Aid claims. It advises that only membership subscription amounts are eligible for Gift Aid – not any element that provides a personal benefit to the member, for example Interest Group activity. Some u3as charge an annual fee inclusive of Interest Group activities. He noted that the HMRC enquiry has not been concluded as yet, and that National Office may agree a settlement given the problem appeared to be a software issue. 8. Membership Renewals (VH) LB had provided an update to VH prior to the meeting: 65 members and 2 visitors had attended the March general meeting (compared to 81 members and 2 visitors in March 2025). 2 members had joined in March 2026. There are now 314 members, of which 18 are the old style Associate, 4 Associate members had changed to full Individual membership. There are 193 renewals outstanding, including 10 who have resigned or moved to Network membership but for which Beacon has not yet been changed to take into account. 4 Network membership forms have been received. LB had expressed surprise at the number of members (with email addresses) that had renewed by cheque – worth noting for next year. 9. Developments with Paypal (VH/CL) See item 6 above.	
10. Purchase of remote control and cable for the u3a projector (PA) PA advised that the remote control for the u3a projector and the spare HDMI cable connector had gone missing. It is important to replace at least the remote control whilst such are still available for the Epson EB-X41 projector, which is no longer being sold new. She had priced up remotes as £15.73 and £16.45 (universal and Genuine Epson respectively) and HDMI cables at approximately £6 -£7.00, depending on brand and specification, all from Amazon. It was agreed that PA should proceed to purchase the replacements, invoices to be forwarded to CL for reimbursement.	PA

VH raised the issue of the purchase of an additional cupboard cabinet to house the speaker at St Josephs. KNu3a has been asked to remove the speaker from its current storage in the boiler cupboard. She had priced up a cabinet (approximately ½ the size of the u3a cupboard) at approximately £130-£140. A request to install an additional cupboard/cabinet in the hall has been made to the priest and a response is outstanding. Given the size of the existing speaker and issues of cost and location of an additional cupboard, it was agreed that the purchase of a new small speaker, that might be stored in existing cupboard space, was explored.	GL
11. Interest Groups and First aid Course (PG) PG advised that KNu3a now has 41 Interest Groups available to its members and Network members. Sue Wright and Kay Ravenhill are now leading the Garden Visits Group. Colin Loach has taken over the History Group, which had been meeting on Zoom. It has been renamed the History Discussion Group and will be meeting in the Bulls Head. The Creative Writing Group will be meeting once, rather than twice, a month in order to address issues around falling attendance. VH will contact Carole Folliard to discuss concerns she may have, having resumed Travel Group holidays. PG advised that the first First Aid Course will be held on Monday 11 May, subject to confirmation that the BQMH is available. CL is awaiting confirmation.	VH CL
12. Future General Meetings and Christmas Party Plan (GL) Norman Wheatley will give a talk on Local Radio at the next general meeting on 7 April. GL will respond to his enquiry about sound reproduction from projector via speaker. It was agreed that there should not be a speaker for the meeting on 2 June 2026, the AGM, due to lack of time. Instead a cream tea would be provided. As agreed at the last committee meeting, there will be 2 events in December – the general meeting on 1 December with Handbags, presented by Drama 13, and a Christmas Party, date subject to confirmation of hall availability. GL is currently booking speakers for 2027; including about Winterbourne Gardens, Antiques by Chris O’Grady and return visits by Jen Rigby and Kate Round.	GL CL
13. Report about Inactive Interest Groups/AOB RJ had circulated a list of Interest Groups recorded as inactive on Beacon. There are a total of 23 such groups, some recorded with leaders who were no longer members. VH noted that when KNu3a was established there had been an Interest Group Team, which had been advised not to eliminate inactive groups because it would not be possible to relist on Beacon under the same name, hence the long list of such groups. This advice may now have been superceded. PG advised that she would like to retain the groups listed for Coach Trips and Music, Theatre, Opera & Ballet (renaming as Theatre). The other inactive groups could be deleted.	RJ
14. Date of next meeting 2pm Tuesday 21 April 2026 at Bournville Quaker Meeting House The meeting ended at 3.55 pm.	