# Huddersfield and District U3A Committee Meeting Minutes
# Monday 15 June 2026 held at 2:15pm at Aspin House

**Present** Christopher Newbery (CHN) (Chair), Joan Connally (JC), Jenny Eaglestone (JE), Brian Farrand (BF), Janet Forde (JF), Moira Marshall (MM), John May (JM), Sue May (SM), Monica Plested (MP), Diana Wilson (DW)

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| 1 | **Apologies for absence** | |
| | Isabel Foster (IF), Mike Scholes (MS)<br>The committee expressed good wishes to IF for a speedy recovery. | |
| 2 | **Committee Membership** | |
| | Mark Robinson had resigned from the committee since the last meeting. It was agreed that he will be missed especially from the working group. | |
| 3 | **Minutes of meeting held on Monday 16 March 2026** | |
| | MS had emailed the office to say he did not feel the minutes adequately reflected the discussion at the meeting, but in the absence of any suggested amendment the minutes were agreed as a correct record. | |
| 4 | **Matters arising and Action Points not otherwise on the agenda** | |
| | **Spring Talks** | |
| | Although well received, this year's Spring Talks had run at a substantial financial loss. It was agreed that the venue had not been sufficiently accessible for our membership. Alternative venues were discussed. The Mission theatre does not have a permanent projector. JM agreed to investigate The Glass Box | **JM** |
| | **Office Accommodation** | |
| | CHN reported that many of the reasons for wishing to move office had been resolved. The padlock on the outer door which volunteers had found difficult has been removed, the interior has been improved and the landlord is seeking tenants. CHN to continue discussions with the landlord about staying. | **CHN** |
| 5 | **Bequest** | |
| | CHN reported that the late Mrs Vera Ives had bequeathed 5% of her estate to Huddersfield and District U3A. The executors had made an interim distribution to us of £83,000. | |
| 6 | **Yorkshire Building Society** | |
| | JC reported that our account with the YBS had been red-flagged due to lack of activity, which meant she was unable to access funds for several months. JC is researching the best place to keep our long term funds and | **JC** |

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| | looking at fixed term bonds, which typically have an interest rate of 4 ½ % compared to YBS 2 ½ %. | |
| **7** | **Annual Accounts and Gift Aid** | |
| | JC presented the interim accounts. The deficit is £5146 without Gift Aid. Other items to note were that the Leaders' Lunch costs covered 2 years as the 24/25 lunch was delayed, and the large loss on the Spring Talks.<br>JC was thanked for a clear presentation.<br>Venue costs were also looked at under this heading, and MP agreed to take on the task of looking at whether savings could be made by using different venues or different rooms in the venues. | **JC**<br><br><br><br><br>**MP** |
| **8** | **Safeguarding Update** | |
| | Nothing to report. | |
| **9** | **Working Group Update** | |
| | JF presented a report on the progress so far. She pointed out that the remaining members of the working group (JF and MP) did not have the IT knowledge to continue looking at the IT side, but felt we could learn from the U3A contacts made. It was agreed committee members needed time to consider the report and it should be put on the agenda for the next meeting | **JF** |
| **10** | **Admin/Office** | |
| **10.1** | Member number update<br>The total of new and renewing members for the year so far continued to decline, the current figure of 653 compared with 732 the same time last year. There was a discussion about the benefits of groups meeting socially to encourage them to return after the summer break, and it was suggested something could be put in the next newsletter on the subject. | |
| **10.2** | Website<br>JE reported that the website has been updated to show the new classes.. | |
| **10.3** | Prospectus | |
| | JF asked for helpers for sending out the prospectus on Thursday and on 9 July and several committee members volunteered. | **JF** |

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| **8** | **Reports from Officers** | |

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| | **Venue Update**<br>JE reported that we have a new venue, The Newsome Centre. The new Tarot class will take place there.<br>**Equipment, Facebook**<br>Nothing to report.<br>**Publicity**<br>JM reported that with the email agreement of committee members, he had taken advantage of an offer from Kirklees & Calderdale 50+ magazine, offering us a free 1-page editorial along with a paid for half-page advert at £250+VAT. | |
| **9** | **AOB** | |
| | DW had prepared a paper based on the idea that members with skills could help out other members who need help, which could be particularly useful for older members. There was some discussion on how this might work, and safeguarding issues, and it was agreed that committee members should have time to think about it and it should go on the agenda for the next meeting. | |
| | The meeting closed at 4.01 pm. | |
| **11** | **Date & Time of Next Meeting:** | |
| | **Monday 17 August 2026 at 2.00 at Aspin House**<br>Please note the time has reverted to the original one of 2pm. | |