

**Oban u3a Committee Meeting  
Corran Halls, 09.15, 03 June 2025**

**Minutes**

	<b>Action</b>
<p><b>Present:</b> Penny Earle, Chair; Sue Pollard, Vice Chair; Graham Cameron, Vice Chair; Richard Bosworth, Treasurer; Neil Sutherland, Membership Secretary; Joy Sullivan, Groups Coordinator; David Hughes</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b> Julia Bateson, Mary Freer</p>	
<p><b>Apologies:</b> Rosemary Young, Speakers</p> <p><b>Prospective/Possible Committee members:</b> Julia and Mary welcomed to the meeting and rest of committee introduced.</p> <p>David Alcock (new newsletter editor) also welcomed at 10.33 and introduced to the committee.</p>	
<p><b>Minutes</b> May's minutes approved</p>	
<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <p><b>Changes to Constitution:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● TAT has vetoed some of the wording. Penny and Richard have worked on a detailed reply re wording of sections. Object clause cannot be changed so we have to keep the wording re age and 'not in f/t employment'. Our new leaflet has avoided this wording.</li> <li>● Non-member helpers: "invited" members are not permitted. We must take payment for all members, despite Hon. Members being free and whether or not we pay TAT a fee for them. We will not make any changes to constitution this AGM. Future committees may want to amend wording to include "proven" breach of any membership condition re termination of membership.</li> <li>● Lack of understanding at u3a office re CCEW and OSCR differences. Oban u3a is not a charity but we've been told we need to act like a charity. OSCR should be our model re TAT's suggestion we include total term/s of officers should not exceed 9 years, as in their 'Scotland' template.</li> <li>● Thanks to Penny and Richard for all their efforts.</li> <li>● Welcome pack: to discuss as below</li> </ul> <p><b>Standing Orders/Committee Guidelines:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Edits to Groups section have been included; other sections</li> </ul>	

<p>have been amended by Penny, though she needs a response re the membership form edit suggested re Privacy Policy: Current text says: The Privacy Policy complements the membership form which asks members to accept the Privacy Policy. Neil to amend Membership form; Joy to check Code of Conduct for Members to see if it links to other policies (EDI etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Committee agreed that the current tick box stating "I consent to my data being used for membership purposes as detailed above" needed to be amended to accept Privacy Policy, Code of Conduct and other policies. Neil to draft wording when he reviews membership form.</li> <li>● To be reviewed annually. Graham will review as he did last year.</li> <li>● Committee minutes are on display-board at meetings and website so changes to policy are made known to members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Badge trays:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Graham to continue to find a solution.</li> </ul> <p><b>Welcome pack:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Our wording in the leaflet doesn't contradict the TAT object clause in constitution text. However, we welcome members regardless of work status and of a wide age range</li> </ul> <p><b>Committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Neil joined mid year so his first year was 2023 - 4; hence has 1 more year in his current role.</li> <li>● David Alcock is considering joining but is in process of selling his house in England. Newsletter liaison would be an extra task if he doesn't join the committee.</li> <li>● Julia is joining the committee and will do the minutes in July, August and for September AGM.</li> <li>● Mary - to be confirmed whether she will organise the festive lunch from home or whether she will join committee.</li> <li>● Liz Smith - considering assisting - Penny is awaiting a reply.</li> <li>● Margo Sim also being asked if she's interested.</li> <li>● Website needs a deputy editor.</li> <li>● Penny will email members.</li> </ul> <p><b>Risk assessment:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Complete when Graham has done his - needs to update spreadsheet.</li> </ul>	<p>Neil Joy</p> <p>Neil</p> <p>Graham</p> <p>Graham</p> <p>Penny</p> <p>Penny</p>
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	Graham
<p><b>Groups</b></p> <p><b>Pickleball:</b> Recreational group will be looked after by Gordon Muir-Jones. Chris Adie remains GC for Competitive group. John Strettle official 2nd for Rec and unofficial for Comp. Richard Field was to assist Rec but has had to step down for personal reasons.</p> <p><b>Meeting for GCs:</b> Sue and Joy have invited GCs to a meeting on 17th June at 2.00 at the Rockfield Centre to welcome new GCs, review aspects of the role, share good practice and provide support with Beacon. So far, 14 replies; 11 attending. Will send a further prompt. Sue suggests mentioning website entries to GCs.</p> <p><b>Astronomy:</b> Liz Smith has proposed starting an Astronomy group - Penny to announce at meeting and Liz &amp; Joy to prepare a piece for the July newsletter. Likely to start in September if there are takers.</p> <p><b>Groups:</b> Sue mentioned that the Crime Reading group had discussed splitting into 2 (as the venue allowed for this) which would enable 2 groups to meet at the same time. This was welcomed. A few points re max. Membership numbers (Beacon), as discussed in May, were revisited. These are on the agenda of the GCs meeting (above). Sue has adjusted totals on Beacon.</p> <p><b>New Members &amp; New Groups:</b> There was some discussion of the situation of new members who are finding a few groups full with no movement, even after a while on the waiting list. It was suggested a) that new members should be encouraged to communicate with the GCs and the G Coord about their wishes (does Beacon allow for this?) &amp; b) that an item should be included in the newsletter and on the website in June to encourage the formation of new groups, in time to promote them at the Open Morning in Sept.</p>	<p>Joy/Sue</p> <p>Joy</p> <p>Joy</p>
<p><b>Membership</b></p> <p>Current membership: 179 (including 2 Associate Members)</p> <p>Since last report on 3 May :-</p> <p>New members: 1; Resignations: 0; Deceased: 0</p>	

<p><b>Treasurer</b></p> <p>Treasurer's report: A new member had overpaid due to fee reduction after April. It was agreed to return the overpayment or treat it as a donation if not wanted.</p> <p>Funding from Mull, sitting as a liability in the finances (so it could be given back if they re-formed). U3as which close are obliged to pass the money on to another group. Committee agreed it could be moved to Oban u3a finances.</p>	<p>Richard Neil</p> <p>Richard</p>
<p><b>Speakers</b> No Change</p>	
<p><b>AGM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Committee succession: Need to find a chair and think about who will take over Groups Coordinator, Speakers, any remaining Secretary tasks, Badges, Newsletter liaison (if David doesn't join the committee), deputy web editor. Thanks, Julia, for taking on some of the above. David H considering perhaps taking some on. Chair can be adopted from the floor at the AGM if necessary.</li> </ul>	<p>Continuing committee members</p>
<p><b>Third Age Trust (TAT)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jamboree 29 August. We are not participating (numbers on committee not permitting at present). It will continue to be advertised through newsletter and mailings.</li> <li>● Committees away day: Scottish Council representatives are organising an Awayday. The Barracks, Stirling, October 31. "An energising day of ideas, inspiration, and practical tips for Committees."</li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOCB</b> None. Meeting finished at 10.35.</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b> Tuesday 1st July 2025 at 9.15am at the Corran Halls.</p>	