

## October Committee Meeting Minutes

**Interim Chair's Home, 18 November 2025**

**Present;** Sue Pollard, Interim Chair; Graham Cameron, Vice Chair and Publicity; Richard Bosworth, Treasurer; Julia Bateson, Secretary; Neil Sutherland, Membership and Beacon; Mary Freer, Speakers and Lunches Coordinator;

	<b>The meeting commenced at 09.30</b>	
17/25	<b>Welcome and Interim Chair's Comments</b> Sue welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming.	
18/25	<b>Apologies for absence</b> David Hughes, Groups Coordinator; and Charles Woods sent apologies in advance of the meeting. David Alcock, Newsletter editor, was also unable to attend	
19/25	<b>Minutes of the last meeting</b> The minutes of the meeting of 7 October had been circulated and were agreed to be a true record of the meeting.	
20/25	<p><b>Urgent Matters Arising</b></p> <p>a. <u>Succession</u> In addition to vacancies identified in the last meeting (Chair and website), the 'Membership and Beacon' representative advised that his moving date was now expected to be within the next month. Consequently, an urgent solution to the appointment of someone to take over his responsibilities was needed.</p> <p>Possible names were raised, and it was agreed that all committee members are to try to identify, and speak to, members who might be able to join the committee to support the Oban u3a.</p> <p>It was pointed out that the current membership form has the address of the Membership Secretary for contact/queries. The Business Secretary volunteered her address as an alternative as she is unlikely to move in the foreseeable future. The changing of the form to be taken forwards by the Vice Chair. The possibility of 'mail forwarding' from the old address was discussed but was not considered necessary.</p> <p>The Interim Chair is to take on Membership Secretary duties pending the appointment of a person to this role. A 'job specification' has been prepared and is available in case of need.</p> <p>Terms of office for Committee members is to be checked by the Interim Chair.</p> <p>Beacon access as regards a member with a 'hotmail' email address was mentioned as Beacon have the ability to suspend Oban in the event that</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Graham</p> <p>Sue</p> <p>Sue</p>

	<p>the issue is not resolved. It was also noted that two or three members do not have email contact addresses at all.</p> <p>b. <u>Date of EDI and Complaints Policy review</u>  The Business Secretary had checked the review dates and confirmed these policies were last reviewed in June 2025.</p>	
21/25	<p><b>Treasurer’s Report</b>  The Treasurer’s report had been circulated prior to the meeting, with an updated set of figures shortly before the meeting.</p> <p>There are currently 187 paid up members; and 47 people have paid for the Christmas lunch.</p> <p>Richard had extracted data and presented a table of income and expenditure for interest groups with the financial data.</p> <p><u>Pickleball</u>  The situation as regard pickleball was discussed.</p> <p>There are now 3 Pickleball sessions weekly, on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The Monday group was established for ‘recreational’ pickleball and the Friday group for ‘competitive’ pickleball. Recently the Wednesday group was established to address the numbers who wanted to play recreationally, as there were currently too many on a Monday for all to get a chance to play.</p> <p>The groups are using ‘Spond’ App to arrange attendance and making up ‘fours’ for games. It is hoped that gradually some Monday members will transfer to Wednesday membership, although this transfer has been slow so far.</p> <p>See also 24/25 below re use of Spond.</p> <p>The excess funds raised by the pickleball groups was discussed but it was decided to leave the situation as it is for the moment. It was noted that within the Treasurer’s report, PickleballBeg refers to the Monday group.</p> <p>There were no other matters of immediate interest.</p> <p>Richard was thanked for his report.</p> <p>It was recognised that in 18 months there will be a need for someone (with abilities with Microsoft Excel) to take over accounts/treasurer duties. It might be possible to use Beacon for accounts facilities when Richard retires, and should this option be followed, the situation might be more sustainable for the future. Richard is to look into this over the next year.</p>	Richard

	<p><u>Membership Badges</u> The Vice Chair raised the issue of possible simplification of the methodology for the members badges was discussed. The Vice Chair is to consider the matter for the future and also develop a 'job description'.</p>	Graham
22/25	<p><b>Bank Signatory Changes</b> The Bank Signatories have been changed following the change in the membership of the Committee. However, not all signatories have access, as not all have received passwords/PINs/card machines for use to access on-line banking facility. The Treasurer is to take this up with the Bank.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Membership Secretary is to retain access initially to check that new member payments have been made.</p> <p>The Treasurer advised that the only outstanding payments due were for: u3a centre (annual payment), the Magazine, Christmas lunch, and the group coordinators/leaders' lunch in due course.</p>	Richard
23/25	<p><b>Membership Secretary's Report</b> The Membership Secretary's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.</p> <p>A letter has been sent out to those who have not paid advising that if their subscription renewal had not been paid by the end of November, they would be removed from the membership roll. Since that message went out, one has paid, two have resigned and there are currently 12 outstanding. There is one member who believes she has paid although nothing can be found in the u3a accounts and this matter is on-going.</p> <p>In the last month two new members had signed up and one of these had paid already.</p> <p>Regarding the language groups' native speakers, Thomas has paid and is to stay a member. Hugo has not attended the group for some time, and his 'membership' is going to be allowed to lapse. The meeting recalled the requirement for membership to gain the benefits of insurance.</p> <p>A draft 'Guide to the Membership Secretary job' has been prepared, and a copy was passed to the Interim Chair</p>	
24/25	<p><b>Group Coordinator's Report</b> David was not present at the meeting but had circulated a report prior to the meeting.</p> <p><u>French Group</u> The French group is now meeting in member's homes, and it was suggested that risk assessments were now needed for the various homes</p>	David

	<p>being used in this way. David is to be asked to contact the group coordinator to take this forward.</p> <p><u>Astronomy/Travel Group</u> The Interim Chair updated the meeting regarding Astronomy, and it is hoped this new group will start in the New Year. There had recently been a Scotland-wide zoom meeting for those interested in starting a travel group. As a result of this a national travel group has been proposed. One local member had intimated an interest in such a group.</p> <p><u>Pickleball</u> With the split of the recreational group into two there are now two coordinators for the recreational pickleball groups – Gordon Muir-Jones (Pickleball Recreational on Mondays) and Peter Gray (Pickle Plus on Wednesdays). Alan Johnstone has taken over as coordinator of competitive pickleball on Fridays.</p> <p>The issue with pickleball is that there had been no cap on the membership numbers in the group(s) this means that sometimes members have to join a queue for games to be made available. The use of Spond (see also above) was discussed, particularly the ‘exclusivity’ of use of an App, when there may be members who do not have access to the Spond App or no smart phone, who consequently cannot get onto the game ‘rota’.</p> <p>It was suggested that someone might check the Spond list to identify anyone who has signed up for pickleball on Beacon, but not on Spond. The Interim Chair volunteered to do this as the size of any problem is unquantifiable at present. The need to identify anyone who tried to sign up but has now ‘given up’ was discussed.</p>	Sue
25/25	<p><b>Festive Lunch</b> Mary spoke to the meeting. 47 people have signed up and paid for the Christmas lunch. Mary has arranged for a small quiz which will be available on the day. It was agreed the quiz would be held at the end of the meal.</p> <p>It was agreed that Neil would send out a ‘final call’ email to all members in case there were any who wanted to come but had not yet signed up.</p> <p>The hotel has not yet requested a deposit, nor individual meal choices. Mary is to follow this up, with Richard’s assistance as appropriate.</p>	Neil  Mary Richard
26/25	<p><b>Email addresses</b> Emails are now being forwarded to appropriate committee members.</p>	

27/25	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><u>Speakers</u></p> <p>Mary confirmed that the January Speaker was David Stroud, who would be talking about Beekeeping.</p> <p>Speaker information such as a short biography, and synopsis of the talk, any images and the speaker's IT requirements are to be sought by the Speakers Coordinator and forwarded to the Vice Chair for circulation and to the newsletter editor for inclusion in the next newsletter.</p> <p>February speaker – John Colston – NATO and Russia</p> <p>March speaker - George Mackenzie – Bread &amp; Cheese &amp; Kisses are not enough</p> <p>April speaker - Catherine Gillies – Female empowerment and SWRI</p> <p>May and June speakers are yet to be confirmed.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Vice Chair would put information about this in Dropbox as Mary does not have access</p> <p><u>Book Tokens</u></p> <p>Book tokens are to be purchased for those speakers who are not current u3a members. Mary is to take this forward.</p>	<p>Mary Neil David</p> <p>Graham</p> <p>Mary</p>
28/25	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>It was not felt appropriate to have a committee meeting before the Christmas lunch as it is only two weeks away.</p> <p>Due to various commitments amongst Committee members the 'regular' Committee meeting schedule of meeting before a speaker in January is not possible and it was agreed that the next meeting should be arranged for mid-January when most people are available.</p>	<p>All</p>

**The business having been completed, the meeting adjourned at 11.00**