

**Minutes**  
**1400- 1600 at The Hub**  
**25<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

1. **Apologies for Absence:** All present (JCM [chair]) HW, JBM, DN, JT, TW plus Sue Abraham [SA] JD (Sec)
2. **Minutes of meeting:** held on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were accepted and will be placed on the website  
**JD**
3. **Matters arising:**
  - a. JBM had investigated the Nat West account JT had highlighted previously. JBM found that although the interest level was slightly more advantageous, the 90-day restriction was an issue. The current deposit account was felt the better option.
  - b. JCM noted that the overhaul of membership carried out in the transfer to Beacon meant that the previous number of members was inaccurate. There are currently 331 members registered.
4. **Chair Report:** JCM and JD had met to discuss the role of secretary. The National u3a Secretaries job description was explored and amended for Verwood purposes. JD explained that the officer job descriptions, once revised, would be placed on the website under the Committee heading.
5. **Treasurer Report:** JBM reported the bank balance was £23760 but that payments due by the end of December equalled £5650. The HMRC Gift Aid so far this year amounted to £2828 (previous year had been £1,900). Gift aid accuracy was a high priority as Trustees are legally responsible. He further explained that at the end of November 2024 gross surplus was £16810 and subscriptions were £16695. Beacon fees had been paid until the end of April 2025.
6. **Venues and Groups Report (plus Christmas Craft PM):** DN reported that bookings for next term were well underway with the Woodlands bookings awaiting confirmation from the ukulele group who were exploring becoming weekly (*NB: now confirmed*). Health and Wellbeing had met in October and the way forward was being discussed. Outside speakers for various topics were being considered. The Electric Band needed a meeting venue and, given the time required for set up, an hourly based booking was inappropriate. Current contact details for the Verwood Scout Hut hire would be sought; there had been no reply from an initial email (*NB: Treasurer contact details and the hiring email have now been forwarded to DN*). Pickleball was proving very popular – the group has 37 members and would be capped at 40. A storage slot in the Sports Hall for the nets and sundry equipment had been secured. Geology sessions were planned for the New Year although dates were yet to be agreed.  
JCM confirmed that the part-year membership from January was £30 and that the additional cost for the weekly groups was £5.

**The Craft and Social afternoon** at the Hub would be on Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November from 2-5pm. The Hub team were handling the social aspect with mince pies and mulled wine in the café area and the Crafts would be in the Theatre. There would be 11 different craft activities on offer where u3a members and non-members could pay a £2 per craft to participate and produce an item to take away. Riverblue would be playing in the Café. The posters were being distributed widely at key points in Verwood; Forest FM would also advertise it.

7. **Beacon and Website Report:** The website continued to operate effectively despite the numbers of bot attacks in recent weeks. The security systems under Word Press operated well. Beacon security was excellent. JT recommended that personal contact lists should be headed with AAA-000! to deter data theft.
8. **AGM 25th October Feedback:** JD reported that as (agreed at the AGM) the minutes were on the website. They were clearly marked To Be Ratified at the AGM 2025. JBM and JCM commented that they liked the longer style of minutes. It had been made clear from the AGM Floor that committee vacancies were a top priority.
9. **Committee Membership Vacancies:** SA was present to help confirm her interest in becoming a most welcome co-opted Committee member. It was hoped that she would decide so to do. All present were actively seeking new candidates and HW was in direct discussion with some already and would follow-up suggestions made at the meeting. It was agreed that a further emailing to all members was necessary, making it clear that more volunteers were needed. **JCM/HW**
10. **Welfare Role:** HW opened a discussion into the viability of establishing Welfare Officer responsibilities for the members. The u3a demographic was such that issues relating to age illness and bereavement were very common and a supportive listening ear might be very welcome for some. JT explained that the Verwood Probus Club had a designated welfare officer. It was agreed Verwood u3a was a larger organisation and any welfare role would need to be carefully defined in order to ensure it was a positive role and manageable. It was agreed that committee members would consider this possibility before the next meeting **All**
11. **Spare Ball:** The spare ball lottery needed to be reviewed because only 17 numbers were taken from a possible 59. However, the venture was very profitable, made more so by the number of weeks where there was no winner. Some members had paid into the draw until the end of March. It was agreed that an email would be sent out in the New Year to canvas existing participants with reference to their intentions to continue. This should be followed by a relaunch email to all members if it was decided to continue with it, albeit potentially in another format. **HW /JCM**
12. **Elvis Evening Feedback:** HW reported that the Elvis Evening had been attended by 60 people and had been a great success (despite a late withdrawal of 2 tables).

£400 was raised for u3a funds. HW had rebooked for March 2026.

**13. The Christmas Lunch:** HW reported that the Christmas Lunch had 56 attendees signed up and that Remedy Oak had guaranteed the private room despite the shortfall in numbers. However, this would not be the case going forward. The viability of the event was discussed and its timing. It was noted that several groups held their own personal events.

**14. Any other business:**

**a.** JD had updated National u3a committee records and would be updating the SW regional records. Verwood u3a policy documents were due for renewal. The National u3a policies would be used as a basis. **JD**

**b.** JD requested that committee members confirmed receipt and downloading success of attachments for the time being as there had been some compatibility issues between computer software. **All**

**c.** JCM noted that Heathside Travel were organising very similar trips to the Verwood Travel Group at similar cost. The in-house trips often struggled for numbers and linking with Heathside Travel would relieve this issue. JCM would discuss with the Travel group organisers **JCM**

**d.** New topics for The Great Debate were discussed. Any ideas for the next debate should be forwarded to HW **HW**

**e.** The Riverblue Concert and American Tea was on December 17<sup>th</sup> and all committee members were most welcome. **All**

**f.** HW highlighted the upcoming "Dance the Night Away" on December 21<sup>st</sup> at the Hub. This was organised by Mick Savage (MS) a u3a member and had been 2 years in the planning.

**h.** HW was hopeful he had found someone to take over a Social Bridge Group.

**g.** A Vote of Thanks was proposed and agreed for Howard's publicity, networking and event work. This was passed unanimously.

**15. Dates For Next Meetings:** The following dates were agreed: 20th January; 17th March; 19th May; 21st July; 15th September; 17th November (*NB: all now booked All 2-4 pm in room S2/3 except 19th May which is in S4*)

The meeting closed at 4pm.