Minutes of the 466th Meeting of Barnstaple Third Age Group Committee

Held on Friday 15th August 2025 at 10 a.m.

At Fremington Methodist Hall.

Present: Keith Luckhurst, Nigel Wright, Sue Thomas, Phil Hawkins, Linda Southgate, Laurence Hillel, Andy Jones

1. Apologies: Maureen Penny, Mary Young, Julia Denton.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting held on the 18th July.

Approved by Nigel and seconded by Andy.

3. Matters arising:

Keith followed up the possibility of joining with Braunton U3A for a language group but this is not viable as they are already oversubscribed and unable to offer additional services to Barnstaple u3a

> **Action:** Keith to put a piece in the newsletter to the effect that there is interest in a language group but no one to lead this, and inform Nigel accordingly

Laurence checked with the Barnstaple library and they were not able to assist with a language tutor.

Laurence was unable to source a First Aid Course at this time but will pursue for a winter session.

Laurence contacted the walking groups and verified the use of their membership cards.

Lunch group will continue at The Williams Arms and diners will pay individually for their meal, rather than a standard carvery

> **Action:** Nigel to reinstate on the website: Canasta group.

Laurence contacted Ann Brand and confirmed that Canasta is continuing and therefore she would like to retain the table.

> **Action:** Maureen to feedback on policies at the next meeting.

4. Chairman: Nothing to report.

5. National Office: Keith was informed by National Office and Gerry Hitchen that Eric Midwinter had died. Eric was founder member of U3A and a close friend of Gerry's.

6. Business Secretary: The Copyright Licence has been received. For the Singing group, Trish has her own copyright licence for sheet music.

The date for the 1st 2026 Coffee Morning is hopefully going to be Monday 12th January, due to the fact that Jan 1st 2026 is a Bank Holiday and so the hall is unavailable.

Action: Phil to book the dates for 2026 with Helen and email a copy to Linda for inclusion with the minutes, if he receives a response in time and also to notify Nigel.

Action: Phil will once again contact Insite to change the contact name and tel no

7. Beacon: Nigel provided 3 policy documents on Privacy, Legitimate interest and GDPR. Signatures were provided as required.

8. Treasurer: Sue circulated the figures prior to the meeting. She notified the Committee that the Bank will be changing the Treasurer's Account to a Charities' Account from 15th Nov 2025 and that transactions will incur charges.

Action: Keith to visit Nationwide Building Society to ascertain their working practices.

Action: Other Committee members to investigate alternative options.

Action: Laurence to investigate a Deposit Account.

The surplus money in the Bank needs to be spent when and where possible.

9. Membership Secretary: Currently 331 of whom 31 are affiliates. As Julia is currently out of action, a get well card will be sourced.

10. Groups Co-ordinator: No additional report.

11. Speaker Secretary: The August speaker, Phil Walker who spoke about the Blood Bikes Charity was well-received. He was awarded 10/10. There were technical issues but this should not recur, and did not necessarily detract from the talk

The September speaker will be Ashley Jones, talking about the Dickin Medal which is the highest award for animal bravery.

Linda is working on the list of possible speakers for 2026. There have been 2 more possibilities come through: Charles Hanson (Auctioneer/Bargain Hunt) and Ian Gasper, a much-travelled former Head Teacher.

Action: Linda to update list of possible speakers and provide general information.

12. Newsletter editor: The Coffee serving Rota to be included as requested.

Action: Keith to pass this list to Nigel for inclusion on the website.

13. Policy Co-ordinator: No report.

14. North Devon Link: Next meeting on 5th September 2025.

15. Roundswell&Fremington Halls: Already covered. Thanks go to Phil for all his perseverance in this matter.

16. Lunches and Coffee Mornings: Nothing further to report.

Action: Keith to announce this event again at the Coffee Morning as only 6 signed up so far for the September meal.

17. Website: Nigel circulated the figures for the last month. It is feasible that visits to the website have been affected by recent weather and the school holidays.

18. A.O.B: Maureen had tabled an E-mail , sent to Laurence, at the previous meeting, received from a member in connection with the loss of some groups, and how future groups and recruitment are being sourced. He criticised the way in which Barnstaple u3a is being run, and in his words, the Committee remain cosy and complacent. After due consideration and much discussion, it was decided that Keith would reply on behalf of the whole Committee.

Action: A draft response to be circulated to Committee members by Keith prior to responding

Action: Nigel to circulate a document for consideration listing various ways of increasing the presence of Barnstaple u3a. He suggested a sub- committee to deal with the circulation of leaflets etc.

Mary has offered to be Publicity Officer.

Merchandising was suggested as a possible section for future agendas.

Linda had read the policy documents and the nomination form to join the Committee needs Phil's name. The safeguarding documents have been scanned and displayed on the website in the incorrect order.

Action: the nomination form to join the Committee to be changed to Phil's name.

Andy suggested 2 possible new groups: Technology and how we use it, and Active History.

There had been an invitation to visit the Community Farm at Pilton but no one was able to attend.

Next Committee Meeting: Friday 19th September at 10 a.m. Coffee and tea at this meeting to be organised by Sue.

Next Coffee Morning: Thursday 4th September 2025.

There being no further business, Keith thanked all for attending.

The meeting closed at 11.26 am