



Honiton

**Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Monday 6 July 2026 at 2.00pm
at the Methodist Church Hall, Honiton**

Present: Anna Jacobs, Kay Edge, Jackie Moran, Stephen Boyd, Brian Churchill, Suzie Blithe, Honor Head, Rob Newell, Jean Goss

Minutes: Kay Edge

26/088 Introduction

In Richard Spoerry's absence Kay Edge took the chair and welcomed everyone.

26/089 Apologies for Absence

Richard Spoerry, Dawn Wood.

26/090 Approval of Minutes (1 June 2026)

Approved.

26/091 Matters Arising

26/058(2) Welcome Pack for New Members: process review

Following a discussion with a number of members of the committee Jackie Moran has now gathered all the documents we give out to new members on to one PDF, and is in discussion with Val Froud about this item on the website. The Bulletin will not be included in the pack. Members' names should be written on the enclosed letter. Anna is happy to print items as they need to be sent out to new members throughout the year, posting out the envelopes as needed (she will be buying envelopes, stamps, etc.) and including their membership card. There is certainly enough money in the kitty to stand some items of postage!

26/072 Recent Joiners Meeting, 9 June: review

After all Jackie's hard work setting this meeting up, and the support she was given by most members of the committee and some group leaders, it was very disappointing only four new members turned up. The committee speculated that because we now distribute a lot more information, via the Bulletin, information about groups, etc., and there are two coffee mornings to attend, new members might not feel the need to come along to a meeting. Jackie felt another meeting later in the year, concentrating on developing and expanding groups, might be more productive.

26/086(1) Inter-u3a Quiz

Honor Head has talked to the Beehive about its possibility as a venue (a date of Wednesday

14 October, 1-5pm, the quiz to be 2-4pm). She is also going to look at Meadowview Community Church in Honiton, where a couple of people have attended quiz evenings; there is a nice kitchen, a stage, and some car parking, and it is a cosier venue and cheaper than the Beehive (only £50) to hire, with some additional money to purchase tea, coffee, milk, sugar and biscuits. It could accommodate 12-15 tables, 4 people per table, at a fee of £10 per table. Cash to be paid on the door, or we will have the SumUp machine available for card payments.

A day other than a Wednesday might be better, as lots of Walking groups meet then, but as we will probably only be fielding two teams of four, with STARS there to help out with teas and setting up, washing up and clearing, this might not matter. Whichever venue is chosen a Risk Assessment must be carried out.

It was suggested Ian Jeeves might be willing to help out with the questions (Rob Newell will ask him), and a few people will be needed to log and collate the results. Honor's friend Karen and her husband may be willing to help out with this. As there is no Bulletin in August a message should be sent out to members alerting them to the quiz, as well as mention in the September Bulletin, and invitations to other u3as should be issued before too long, with a mention that car sharing to the venue would be a good idea; Richard may well have contact details because of his Network links. Jackie suggested asking Honiton's (lady) mayor to present the trophy.

26/092 Treasurer's Report/Membership Secretary's Report

For clarity, Anna separate the accounts between the Core charity account (which includes subscriptions and all of the deductible expenses incurred in operating the charity) and the Self-Funded activities, such as group rents and Social events, which should be kept separate and ideally, break even over the year.

Per Accounts	CORE A/C	SELF-FUNDED	TOTAL
B/F @ 1/06/2026	£9048.54	£1599.00	£10647.54
RECEIVED	£215.00	£424.32	£639.32
PAID	-£217.02	-£314.00	-£531.02
C/F @ 30/06/26	£9046.52	£1669.32	£10,755.84

Per Bank statement as @ 30/6/26 = £ 10,680.84 **less** outstanding payments £ 0.00 **plus** Petty Cash £75.00, Plus PayPal balance £0.00 = **£10,755.84**.

Core receipts were subscriptions £204.00, Other donations £11.

Core payments were Monthly Speaker £70.00, Beehive rent for May £100, Finance fees £11.96, Printing, postage & stationery £35.0.

Self-Funded receipts were Group Dues £135.00 and Summer Social tickets £289.32.

Self-Funded payments were Rents £314.00.

Invoices are still outstanding for May's speaker and the rent for the Beehive in June.

Total Group Balances Held (£0 unless listed) at 30/06/2026 £1,380.00 made up as follows:

Art ff £17; Cribbage £8; Current Affairs £123; Games £207; History £395; Historic Churches £20; Reading fp £111.50; Singing ff £355; Spanish £94; Walking (Brian H) £29.50; Z Holidays £20.

Membership: We currently have 333 members of whom 13 have joined this month. All of these members have renewed with paper forms rather than through Beacon. We are hoping that there may be a way of completing the form on the website and paying online by BACS if members don't want to use Beacon. Brian Churchill is looking into it; **ongoing**.

In addition to the non-renewers, currently there are still 9 members who have paid by BACS or by cheque but have not supplied the form to go with the payment (it is the signed form which creates the contract of membership. Without it the payment is just a donation rather than a subscription to membership of Honiton u3A as far as our insurance and HMRC are concerned; and it is required by legislation re money laundering and data privacy. Basically, without a completed form, even if they have paid, they are not members of Honiton u3A.)

Suzie Blithe will continue helping Anna with membership tasks at the Beehive and Stephen Boyd has agreed to meet, greet and look after speakers.

26/093 Secretary's Report

Kay Edge reported that at the last Beehive meeting 73 members, 2 new members and 4 guests were in attendance. Our Copyright Licence expires at the end of July. She emailed the Trust to ask about the fee but has had no reply so she will chase them.

26/094 Group Coordinator's Report

Jackie Moran said that she and Rob Newell have been looking at Risk Assessment and Incident Reporting and will come back to the committee at the next meeting. She is keen to get all the group leaders on board with this, especially as the Trust is asking u3as to report all 'incidents'.

As regards groups, the second Jane Austen group is about to start, Biography group is now full and the other groups seem to be ticking along.

Beacon is proving useful but Jackie felt she needs to 'sell' to group leaders, and also to members, that it could make their life easier!

26/095 Programme Secretary's Report, including Summer Social

Suzie Blithe has had a meeting with the STARS about organization, flowers, setting up tables, teas, washing up etc. at the Summer Social. She is collecting prizes for the raffle (every member buying a ticket will be part of the draw), and has purchased a large tin of Quality Street as a prize for the table that wins the second quiz. (The first quiz will be 'on the table' and just for fun.) So far 34 tickets have been sold (ideal number would be 50 to a maximum of 60) and 8 people can fit on a table. There will be another opportunity for ticket purchasing at the next Beehive meeting, at the coffee mornings, and it would be worth committee members mentioning the Social at any groups they belong to.

Suzie, Stephen and Jackie will be visiting Cotleigh Village Hall shortly to do a Risk Assessment. Suzie will not be at the next committee meeting but will email Kay if there are any updates to the arrangements so she can let the committee know.

26/096 Publicity Report

Rob Newell felt he needed a proper 'handover' of contact information for publicity purposes and it was suggested the previous Publicity officer, Martin Long, would be helpful in providing this. Brian said he would let Rob have Martin's email address. Rob asked if anyone on the committee had contacts in local villages, re information about u3a going into parish magazines etc., and he welcomes any help the committee can give him.

26/097 Magazine and Bulletin

The July Bulletin, having been read and checked by committee members, is now ready to go out, but Honor Head said she would 'tweak' the information about the Photography Showcase (we do not have a Beehive meeting in August) first.

She has asked for contributions for the next magazine, *Inside Honiton* u3a, to be with her by 10 July, and she can then put it together ready for distribution in August. She still needs a suitable photograph for the front cover.

26/098 Communications Report

Brian Churchill had nothing to report, but a discussion did arise over the link to the Bulletin. It is posted on the website, but lacking any phone contact numbers there because the website can be accessed by non-members. The Bulletin that he now sends out to members (in batches) also lacks contact phone numbers but it is sometimes important (e.g. for ticket sales for the Summer Social) for members to know these numbers. Honor volunteered to draft a message for Brian to send out to members when he despatches the Bulletin to explain this and give the number(s).

26/099 Any Other Notified Business

1. Possible 'badges' for members at Beehive meetings: most people were not in favour, even if it was just a stick-on label, so the idea was dropped. It could be more useful at something like a new members' meeting or a meeting about group development.

26/100 Date of Next Meeting

Monday 3 August 2026 at 2pm in the Methodist Church Hall.

NB Jackie Moran will not be at the next Beehive meeting, so if anyone wants the display boards they should contact her.

Kay thanked everyone and closed the meeting at 3.05pm.
