

Exe Valley u3a Committee Meeting Minutes held at OHSCC Wednesday 03 December 2025

Present: D Lal (Chair), C Langley (Secretary), K Huntley-Sadler/P Sadler (Treasurers), M Turner, J Riddiford, A Bush, J Langley, J Jeffrey.
R McIntosh from 10.00am

Apologies: None

Deborah welcomed the committee.

Minutes of last meeting:

Minutes of meeting held 05 November 2025 were agreed by the committee and signed by the Chair.

Amendments: None.

Matters arising:

Items to be discussed per the agenda of this meeting.

Chair's Report:

Deborah reported that she had received positive feedback regarding the Group Leaders' meeting. It had been very well attended and the catering overall appreciated. She expressed thanks to Mike for his work as the Groups Coordinator to make the meeting a success.

Anne suggested that it would be helpful at such future meetings for the group leaders to introduce themselves, as well as the committee. Additionally name badges to be made available for the day.

Deborah advised that favourable comments had been made to her by a former Chairperson of Exe Valley u3a regarding the recent informative presentations given ie. Cyber Security and Driving Safe for Longer.

Christmas monthly meeting arrangements being organised by Lynne and Tim are well in hand. Tim has requested a prize be given to the winning quiz team. The words of the carols selected will be displayed on screen.

It is thought that the three observers who attended the November committee meeting will not be joining the committee but will be willing to help as required in other ways.

Jo advised that Joan Kelly will attend the January committee meeting with the possibility of rejoining the committee.

Secretary's Report:

Carol advised that Tim has requested a safety check of all the technical equipment held. This will be undertaken by a qualified electrician at a cost of £70 to £100. The committee agreed for this to go ahead and Carol will liaise with Tim to arrange.

The trifold publicity leaflet has been printed and help is needed to distribute. The distribution list has now been passed to Paul. It was agreed for some leaflets to be available at the December monthly for members to take and pass on to friends and contacts. Some leaflets have already been distributed and the remainder to be circulated in the new year.

Carol and John will not be available for the 07 January Committee Meeting. It was agreed to reschedule that meeting to 14 January 2026.

Treasurer's Report:

As Paul and Karyl have recently been away and just returned, Paul advised that the normal monthly report was not yet prepared. It will be made available as soon as possible.

Current balance at bank £4,595.13

Paul put forward a proposal to introduce no entry charge at monthly meetings for a 6 month trial period. This was unanimously agreed by the committee to commence in January 2026. Anne will email to inform the membership.

Website Manager's Report:

Paul advised work is ongoing to keep the website updated. He ensures that the monthly newsletter is posted regularly online.

Publicity Report:

After discussion it was agreed a publicity poster be designed at a future date.

Membership Secretary's Report:

Jill advised there are now 251 members including 1 new. As membership renewals are required from 01 January 2026, Jill will mail members on New Year's Day to request payment.

IT Report:

Ray suggested a screen be used at the monthly meetings instead of projecting onto the wall. It was explained that the screen previously used at the Rugby and Football clubs was too cumbersome to transport and therefore no longer practical to use.

Following general discussion concerning the IT equipment held it was agreed that the projector and laptop will be tested and updated as required. Ray will arrange for this to be done and will liaise with Tim.

Ray left the meeting at this point.

Social Coordinator's Report:

Anne reported that 22 members from Exe Valley and Culm Valley u3as are now booked on the Box Museum/ Plymouth trip on 06 March 2026.

20 members have expressed interest in the free BT Digital Training for use of smart phones. Anne will liaise with the trainer to hold two general talks on the subject at the Cherith Hall.

Beacon Administrator's Report:

Jo advised as per information given in the November 2025 Beacon Newsletter that 655 u3as now use the Beacon system.

The Third Age Trust are interviewing candidates for a Support and Development officer who will be directly involved in managing Beacon and Siteworks. A new digital services platform will also be introduced.

Additionally a new User Acceptance Team is being formed. This team will test enhancements to the system.

Following contact at the Group Leaders meeting Jo will liaise with a group leader who has shown interest in the Beacon system.

The Gardening Group are now using the Beacon Group Ledger facility. It was agreed that other group leaders should be encouraged to also use the ledger enabling the Treasurer to view u3a funds held by individual groups. This will be discussed further at a future date.

Groups Coordinator's Report

Mike reported that as the Live for Today Plan for Tomorrow course was well attended by Exe Valley u3a members the amount received from them exceeded the cost of hiring the Cherith Hall and other expenses. Consequently, as we had more than covered our costs it was decided that Tiverton u3a would not be asked to make any contribution towards meeting the costs of running the course.

Sue Hooper - Lawrie had asked that an evaluation/feedback form be issued to everyone who had attended the course. Subject to the committee's approval Mike will issue the questionnaire via Beacon and summarise the responses before forwarding them on to Sue.

Sue will not be given access to either the names or the email addresses of our members.

Mike advised that a further session regarding Care Homes may be considered.

Programme Coordinator's Report:

Felicity Goodall will be giving her presentation Exodus Burma at the January 2026 monthly meeting.

Welfare Notes:

Nothing to report.

Items for the newsletter:

Christmas meeting

Introduction of free monthly meetings

Tea rota

Committee nominations for AGM

Date/time/venue of next meeting

Wednesday 14 January 2026 10.30am The Britton Centre OHSCC

