u3a Monmouth

Minutes of Monmouth u3a Committee meeting: 17th March 2026

Committee Member's Home : 11.00am – 13.00 pm

1	**Present** (Alphabetical order)	Frank Birch, Phil Chadwick, Jo Handley, Phil Hewitt, Aidan Hodgson, Alison Lewis (guest – for item 3.5), Monica Lofgren, Averil Macdonald (chair), David Milledge, Linda Wright
2	**Apologies**	Neil Hines, Jan McLagan
3	**Minutes of previous meeting** - these were approved.	
3.5	**Venues for u3a activities.** As Wyesham Christian Fellowship are no longer prepared to host u3a activities, alternative venues need to be identified. It was agreed that the following possibilities were worth pursuing: - Baptist Church – currently awaiting a response to our enquiry - Riverside – **action 3.3.1:** – discuss options with Riverside - Royal Oak – **action 3.3.2:** check out when next present - Blake – **action 3.3.3:** – speak to head - Catholic Church – but noted that it doesn't provide blackout curtains - Singleton Court and Apex house were also suggested as possibilities.	
4	**Action Grid – outstanding actions update** Most actions completed or no longer relevant. Noted: gift aid claim for 2024-25 now complete and application forms for well-being grants expected to be available on council web-site March 17th.	
5	**Charity Commission Annual Return** Annual return needs to be completed by 30th April. **Action 3.5.1:** Chair, Treasurer and Secretary will meet ASAP to progress.	
6	**Safeguarding documents** The reworked Safeguarding Guidance and Policy document was approved. **Action 3.6.1**: replace existing document on website.	
7	**Revised new groups policy** **Revised new groups policy approved.** **Action 3.7.1:** replace existing documents with these on website. Some changes are now believed to be required to the Convenor role document. **Action 3.7.2:** to be reviewed and performed.	
8	**Comments on finance related documents** These were circulated by treasurer prior to meeting for comment. No comments received.	
9	**Monthly report – Membership** Membership now stands at 1033 with an increase of 14 in previous month. , with 28 members since December committee meeting and 23 so far in January.	

	As growth in membership appears to be plateauing there was a discussion about what the next steps should be. Agreed that a social media promotion campaign should be investigated focused on Facebook. Agreed: to allocate £120 to start something off, with a total spend expected of about £300. **Action 3.9.1:** details of plan to be established.
10	**Monthly report – Groups** **Sewing:** membership now 5, meeting in group members houses. **Chamber music:** 6 expressions of interest and these have been put in touch with each other. Unsure of current status but possibly this should just be listed under hobby connect. **Action 3.10.1:** confirm status of "chamber music". **Welsh beginners:** noted that 3 new members had expressed interest in learning Welsh. There is currently a Welsh Improvers group but not yet critical mass needed for a new group. **Cooking:** noted: new members have again expressed an interest in this as an activity. The issue is always how would this be organized with only limited capacity in most members homes. It was suggested that there maybe interest at Monmouth restaurants and similar in hosting one-off cooking events. How to prepare a particular type of dish, or similar. **Action 3.10.2:** There is a feeling that Bar 125 might be receptive to hosting some form of cooking class. Check them out. **Yoga:** there has been an issue recently when Yoga tutor did not appear for a class. **Action 3.10.3:** To inform convenor that this has been discussed by committee who acknowledge that in general this is not acceptable and committee will continue to monitor. **Tea Group:** convenor has been having issues with attempting to send messages to group members via Beacon. **Action 3.10.4:** continue to try and resolve. **Strength Training:** 12 members had expressed interest in a second group on Thursday's. Only 6 turned up for first session. A second Taster session is to be run. **STAR Group:** **Action 3.10.5**: establish who should be on new list. **Organising trips:** noted that it is desirable to move towards a model where individuals can organize one-off trips rather than having a single convenor who does all the organizing. **Short-courses:** suggested that members conducting short courses (typically 3-6 sessions) around their specific area of expertise, for the benefit of other members, should be encouraged. **Action 3.10.6:** establish interest levels Insurance: noted (1) that members meeting as part of hobby-connect are not covered by u3a insurance whereas if they form a group (which necessitates identifying a convenor) they are covered and (2) the insurance cover provided by TAT for Monmouth u3a is very limited. **Action 3.10.7:** inform hobby-connect members of position on insurance.
11	**Bridges update** Not expected to be open for another 12 months. Anything available earlier than this will be a bonus.
12	**Monstock update** This is scheduled for Saturday 25th July with the Punch House, Bar 125 and the Robin Hood being the venues. Monmouth u3a bands will be participating.

13	**Upcoming committee meeting venues** The home used for committee meetings since the flood will be unavailable June, July and August. An alternative venue for these months has been identified.
14	**Monthly meeting venues for 2026** May event allocated to Savoy. Venues for April and June to be identified. See agenda item 3.5
15	**Priory** Noted that the facilities provided to support meetings are not currently considered adequate for Monmouth u3a needs.
16	**Newsletter items** 5 replies were received from our postal subscribers (total of 8). Agreed: Based on the response we will now move to moving to a monthly "whats-on" bulletin to be mailed to this group of our members. Agreed: Newsletter to be replaced by a from time-to-time magazine published on the website as and when suitable material is available. **Action 3.16.1:** add 3-monthly reminder to rolling calendar to ask for magazine contributions.
17	**Items for inclusion in newsletter** No longer relevant – see agenda item 16. **Action 3.17.1:** remove as a standing item from future agenda's.
18	**Confirm details for afternoon meeting** This is taking place at the Savoy. Tea/Coffee is being provided on the door by the Savoy. We need to exit promptly so they can prepare for following event.
19	**Rolling Calendar –** "TAT magazine renewals" – no longer relevant and should be removed from rolling calendar **Action 3.19.1:** remove. "Submit TAT return – April 1st" – TAT require membership number at close March 31st. **Action 3.19.2**: Membership team to provide to secretary
20	**AOB** – Monmouth u3a speaker recently purchased only has single mic input. Need to investigate upgrade with possibility of trading in current speaker, for speaker that can handle two mic inputs. **Action 3.20.1:** Investigate speaker upgrade.
21	**DONM –** Tuesday 21st April, 11.00am