Minutes of Thornbury u3a Committee Meeting held at 14:00 on Thursday 5th March 2026 at Christ the King church

1. Present:

Dan Freeman, Chris Bolton, Pat Light, Pat Wells, Sue Bilson, Rita Goss, Sue James, Helen Mozoro, Loraine Grove , Martin Farrimond, Roger Steer (observing).

2. Apologies for Absence

Peter Rendell,

3. Approval of Minutes of last Committee meeting 8th January 2026 2025

These were approved unanimously and have been placed on Dropbox.

4. Actions from the Previous Meeting

It was decided that none of the suggested options for portable hearing loops were worth following up. However Chris recommended use of the Transcribe App which can assist those who have hearing issues in meetings.

Helen reported that the last Open meeting was well attended and successful. A further meeting is planned – A talk on Poisons by Dr Carolyn Morton has been arranged for May 11th. Further possibilities are talks on "Living with Thalidomide" by Mandy Dela Mare, planned for end June early July, and hopefully, for early October, Captain Andy Wyatt Former Red arrows and Boeing 747 pilot talking about his experiences.

The London coach trip on April 23rd is fully booked.

All other actions completed

5. General Items

i. New committee members

The committee is still short of 2 ordinary committee members. All current members will continue to seek new volunteers

ii. AGM Feedback

The AGM was well attended. Some comments were reported on the lack of formal introductions of the new Chair and Vice Chair. Dan and Pat will look at the structure of the meeting to ensure greater clarity of the election processfor next year

iii. Open Talks and London visit

See Section 4

iv. Town of Culture

Dan attended a workshop session considering the initial elements of the Expression of Interest. He is due to have further discussions with the Mayor, specifically to discuss inter-generational involvement.

v. Committee Responsibilities and activities- Checklists

Pat asked committee members to comment on the initial suggestions, adding items and timelines where these are needed

vi. Leader's lunch. Planning and catering

It was agreed that the 2026 lunch will use the same format as last year. The Hall has been booked for September 25th. Helen with arrange for catering (Butties) and contact the wine group.

There was some discussion about a change of format for the following year. This will be discussed at a later meeting.

vii. Tia chi setup costs

Helen has been in discussion with a Tai Chi instructor. Helen will arrange time and date for taster sessions to identify interest. It was agreed that we will offer two free Taster sessions (max 12 attendees per session). After that the group will have to be self funded.

viii. Suggestion on changes to Committee terms of office (see Ian Gross letter dated 8th October)

It was agreed that a small group (probably Dan, Pat W, Loraine and Sue B) will meet with Ian Gross to discuss options. Dan to arrange a meeting

ix. Proposal to target Future retirees via workplace courses (From Lyn Haigh dated 13th Nov 2025)

The committee felt it was a very good initiative but at this moment in time the committee were unable to undertake the extra work this would involve. The Chair, however, had spoken to his former employer Unite about speaking on their pre-retirement course.

6. Reports

i Treasurer's Report:

Sue B reported that the accounts were all in order and running smoothly. There were no comments from the committee

Report accepted and placed on DropBox.

ii Membership Report:

Report accepted and placed on DropBox

iii Group Co-ordinator Report:

See Section 4

iv Beacon Report:

Martin raised the issue of retention of records under GDPR. Pat L stated that deceased members' details were removed when she is informed.

He also highlighted the issue of the two roles of Admin and Group Leader and questioned the lack of differentiation. It was agreed that this is an ongoing issue because the roles are seen by members as different even though they have the same permissions within Beacon.

Report accepted and placed on DropBox

v Webmaster Report:

Report accepted and placed on DropBox

vi Equipment Report

Roger reported that the report is on DropBox

vii Health & Safety Report:

Nothing to report

7. AOB

It was agreed that we will sponsor a planter in the High Street again for 2026, Sue J to follow up.

Rita reported that The Armstrong committee are changing the way they communicate. In future they will send out a regular newsletter rather than individual emails. However they will still respond directly to questions from individuals.

It was suggested that we should look at putting on a meeting to explain what the u3a is about and advertising in local papers to try and reach a wider younger audience (though this may create issues when popular groups are full).

Pat Wells Secretary

10th March 2026

Next Meeting 7th May 2026

NB Further committee meetings will be planned for the first Thursday of alternate months unless other issues intervene