



MINUTES.

Committee Meeting: Monday 9th February 2026 at 10 am

Venue: St James with St Luke's Church Parish Room.

Present:

Trustees: Jane Winterbotham (JW), Imelda Gunn (IG), Chris Chesham (CC), Nusrat Shah (NS), Helen Simpson (HMS), Lorna Walsh (LW), Hazel Sugarman (HS), Marion Newell (MN), Vipin Patel (VP), Christine Williams (CW), Peter Houghton (PH)

Apologies: Joan Jones (JJ), Hazel Sugarman (HS) Imelda Gunn (IG)

1. Call to Order and Confirmation of Quorum. JW

2. Peter Houghton was welcomed as a new Trustee. **JW**
He was given the New Trustee Information and dates for all meetings in 2026.

3. **Minutes of previous meeting and Matters arising: JW**
a) Minutes of previous meeting – approved.
b) Matters Arising. JJ's concern about removal of members will wait until she returns in April.

4. **Committee Issues JW.**
None

5. **Financial Report HMS**
a) General Report, Groups Report and Trips Report for January 31st, 2026 – approved.

6. **Documents for discussion**
a) Closure of Nat West Harlow. This will have a major effect on CC since some members pay cash for membership fee and outings. Alternatives will be looked for -e.g. using the Post Office.
HMS will investigate long term solutions.
b) Minutes of AGM – January 26th, 2026. Approved.
c) H&S concern at The Link, The platform is very high and needs suitable steps. This will be followed up at the March meeting.
d) Constitution. The Charity Commissions requirements regarding sending information to members will be looked into. LW
e) New members Support Group. CW has volunteered to head this. Giving new members a free raffle ticket was approved by the Committee,
f) Updating of Facilitators Handbook. VP will lead this group. CW, JJ and Geof Longster will form the group for this.

- g) Members emails. This is a communication challenge. CC will contact members who have no email to see if there is an alternative email they could use.

7. Reports:

a. Membership CC

Current membership is 628.

124 members attended the AGM.

A letter reminding members their fees are due in June will be sent out in March.

b. Meetings. CC

New Members meeting will be on Friday 24th April 2026. JW will co-ordinate with The Link.

c. Group Co-ordinators VP/JJ

There are concerns about the leadership for the Sunday Lunch group.

The Short Walking group is suspended due to lack of a Facilitator.

d. Speakers VP

All meetings for 2026 are arranged and speakers for 2027 are being contacted.

e. Visits and Outings HS

- a) A visit to V&A in February 2026 to see the Marie Antoinette exhibition is planned for the 17th February 2026. Although the Marie Antoinette exhibition is full, but there are plenty of other attractions.

- b) A visit to Thriplow to see Daffodils will take place on 25th March 2026.

- c) A visit to Regents Park to see an outdoor performance of CATS will take place on 5th August 2026.

f. Events CW

CW will contact facilitators to make them aware that the New Members meeting date has changed.

It was agreed to limit facilitator's inputs.

g. Beacon Website NS

NS will add Peter Houghton to Beacon and to the Committee list.

8. Newsletter.

- a. The deadline for contributions for the next issue is 13th February 2026 for publication on 20th February 2026.

9. AOB.

It was agreed that we will not vote for u3a candidates since we do not have information about candidates.

A concern was expressed about putting numbers on Raffle prizes. JW will look into this.

10. Next meetings

Committee Meeting – 9th March 2026. Venue. St James and St Luke's Parish Room

General Meeting – 23rd February 2026 Venue: The Link
