

**MINUTES**  
**Tuesday 24 February 2026**  
**Somerford ARC, Christchurch**

**Present:** Rosemary McCulloch, (RMcC), Sue Fillery (SF), Kathleen Smith (KS), Ian Peterkin (IP), Sue Crosoer (SC), Paula Watton (PW), Jackie Sherman (JS), David Mobbs (DM), Eileen Lancaster (EL), Paul Heighes (PH), Gillian Walker

**Apologies:** Elaine Trayler (ET)

<p><b>Minutes of meeting</b> 20 January 2026 were approved. Proposed RMcM seconded by IP</p>	
<p><b>Matters Arising</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. First Aid Workshops. SF reported the First Aid Workshops held on 11 and 19 February had gone well. The Committee thanked SF for organising the workshops. It was suggested that other organisations could provide similar workshops. The committee will give some thought as to what might be available.</li> <li>2. Runways costs. SC and Ks are in the process of reviewing all venue costs.</li> </ol>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>All</b> <b>SC, KS</b></p>
<p><b>Chair's Report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RMcC had received emails regarding concerns raised by the Theatre Group. The concerns will be discussed under a separate item on the agenda.</li> <li>2. RMcC had received an email from a member about a safeguarding and risk management issue. RMcM had dealt with the issues accordingly and understood the situation is now closed.</li> <li>3. RMcC attended a Christchurch Town council meeting regarding the future of Druitt Hall. A vote in favour of renewing the lease for a possible 20 years was taken. A decision will be made by the full Christchurch Town Council meeting in March.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p>KS and PH had nothing new to report. Investment of the CCLA funds is ongoing.</p>	
<p><b>Theatre Group</b></p> <p>The concerns raised by the Theatre group leader were discussed. It was unanimously agreed all monetary matters and cash handling must be carried out in accordance with accounting rules and recommendations made by the Auditor. With regard to the concern about the Musicals group running in conflict to the</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>Agreed</b></p>

<p>Theatre group it was decided that there was no reason why the two groups could not work in unison. It was agreed that SF, as Business Secretary, will reply to the emails on behalf of the committee.</p>	<p>SF</p>
<p><b>Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A photograph of the Priory and castle ruins was chosen as the cover for the 2026/27 Programme.</li> <li>• The decision to increase the membership fee to £52 per annum was rescinded. It was agreed the membership fee for 2026/27 will be £50. The membership fee for new members joining in the Spring and Summer terms was agreed at £35.</li> <li>• IP confirmed the deadline for Groups to be listed in the Programme is 13 April.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agreed</b></p> <p><b>Agreed</b></p>
<p><b>Publicity</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Volunteers are required for the u3a Christchurch market stall.</li> <li>2. New photos of group activities are needed for display in the Epicentre and publicity material.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>Venues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed SC should go ahead with the hire of a larger venue for a one-off session for the Painting for Pleasure group.</li> <li>• It was agreed to fund a second Music Showcase at The Runway in this financial year on the condition that the ticket sales are used to contribute towards the cost of the venue cost. Funding for Music Showcase events will be reviewed again next year.</li> <li>• The Mahjong Group will start in the Spring term. St. Catherines Church was suggested as a suitable venue.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Agreed</b></p> <p><b>Agreed</b></p>
<p><b>Beacon website</b></p> <p>DM said :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• our current website is a good website, approachable and easy to use but it is beginning to look dated.</li> <li>• Some of the computer languages are becoming obsolete and will be superseded by new versions which could cause issues in the future.</li> <li>• There is a degree of complexity for anyone new to picking up and maintaining the current website.</li> <li>• The Beacon and Sitework system, used by many u3as, provides a u3a style with templates for groups, venues, membership etc.</li> </ul>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of the system information would be much simpler.</li> <li>• Good information is available with a support system available from national u3a.</li> <li>• Front end users will require training to use a new system.</li> </ul> <p>IP suggested that a key benefit of using the Beacon website is that any concerns about legality or corruption will be managed by The Third Age Trust.</p> <p>KS noted that alternatives to Beacon could work with Siteworks and should be reviewed. A subgroup—DM, EL, KS, IP, and PH—will examine the benefits and drawbacks of a new website.</p>	
<p><b>A.O.B.</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. IP reported Christchurch u3a is now on the u3a national website.</li> <li>2. A national u3a survey inviting members to explore what u3a means to them and how being part of u3a has impacted their lives will be sent to all members.</li> </ol>	<b>EL</b>
<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> 31 March 2026 at 14.00 at Somerford ARC, 20 Southey Road, Christchurch BH23 3EH</p>	