

CALDICOT AND DISTRICT

Website: caldicot.u3asite.uk

Charity Number: 1071447

COMMITTEE MEETING 29TH JANUARY 2026 MINUTES

PERSONS PRESENT:-

John Calvin-Thomas

Maurice Turner

Jean Munton

Lynsay Smith

Linda Stewart

Rob Harry

David Searle

Lyn Howells

Richard Norman

Lisa Evans

Ingrid Arntzen

1. Apologies

Paul Evans

Cindy McOwen

2. Minutes of the meeting on the 6th November 2025 – Agreed with one amendment that the minutes should read how much the committee can keep in the accounts.
Lisa requests that minutes be sent out soon after the meeting instead of near to the next meeting.

3. Matters arising:-

Gardening/History Group – Rob said that sorting out their new accounts is ongoing. JCT said that the Gardening Group needs help to restart and U3A funding will help. After a discussion the Committee unanimously agreed that the Gardening Group would be given £250 to help them open an account with the Monmouthshire Building Society. The Monmouthshire requires at least that amount to always be in the account. This money would continue to belong to the U3A as a whole. It was also unanimously agreed that the Gardening Group would be given a loan of £350.

Rob said that Group Finances and sorting out of new accounts was ongoing. Most Groups were now thinking of using the Monmouthshire Building Society. Maurice said he needed to check if they use BACS before the transfers are made.

Charity Commission:- Rob and Maurice confirm that the Return to the Charity Commission has been done and accepted.

Coffee Morning. After a discussion it was agreed that it was not practical to sign everyone that attends in and out. Where there is a disabled person attending their carer with them will be informed that it is their responsibility to ensure the disabled person gets out of the building in case of an emergency.

Richard – Trip to Welsh Parliament:- Discussions with the Parliament are on going to organise a trip.

Computer Group:- The group now has their new computer which is working well. The cost was £405. Originally the Committee agreed they would be given a grant of £350. It was unanimously agreed that the full £405 will be paid out of U3A funds.

4. First Aid Kits:- Rob showed the first aid kit to the Group Leaders in the previous meeting where it was agreed that all groups should be offered a kit. It was unanimously agreed by the Committee that the U3A would fund the larger kit for groups that meet at premises and that the smaller kits for the walking groups.
5. Group Meeting- Facilities. Rob and David explained that the facilities/equipment available at the venues used by the various groups need to be checked out. JCT said he had signed an agreement with the Methodist Church as to what they will provide. Health and Safety Rules for example should be displayed. Rob said this needs to be done especially in relation to the Methodist church as there is a possibility the Church will close due to low numbers attending services. Rob will hopefully have a report ready for the AGM.
6. Subscriptions:- Maurice said as far as he knows the national U3A will not increase their subscription from April. The main account for Caldicot currently has £4,600 in it. It was unanimously agreed that Caldicot U3A will not increase subscriptions for the coming year unless the national element of the subscription increases. After a discussion it was unanimously agreed that any new members joining in January, February and March will not have to start paying a subscription until April and the new financial year.

7. Independent Monitoring Board. Jean informed the meeting that the Board had approached the U3A to ask that a flyer for the volunteering work they do be sent out to all U3A members. The Board volunteers go into prisons and immigration detention centres to check that persons detained are being looked after appropriately. A discussion took place and objections included that using members' emails in this way was a breach of privacy legislation and some objected because they were concerned that if people did volunteer and were traumatised by the work they would blame the U3A. It was agreed by a majority that a Speaker from the Board would be invited to speak on Saturday 3rd May 10am to 12 noon. In the event the Board agrees to a speaker then information on what they do can be sent out in advance of the meeting. Jean to email the Board inviting the speaker. Richard to organise thereafter.
8. Any other Business:- John informed the meeting that Ingrid has resigned as Group Co-ordinator. Ingrid said that she had not been able to get the co-operation of the group leaders to liaise with her. Her intention was to support them and to show they were not alone in dealing with their groups. Ingrid also informed the meeting that she is stepping down as a member of the committee. She will however continue to look after the U3A website for the moment.

Open Day – JCT – John said that the format that has been used for the previous open days has not worked as it has not got enough people through the door. After a discussion it was agreed that we need to find out when there are other events going on in the Caldicot area and to see if the U3A can have a stall at the events. Linda (Stewart) and Maurice will contact the Caldicot Events Committee and the Caldicot Town Team to see what events are coming up in the future and to see if we can have a stall at appropriate events. Rob said that the local Arts Society also hold events and he will speak to them with a view to the U3A being present.

Monmouthshire Building Society:- After a further discussion it was unanimously agreed that any Group that wants to open a Monmouthshire Building Society Account will be offered £250 to do so on the same terms as discussed earlier in relation to the Gardening Group.

9. It was agreed that the date of the AGM would be 21st May 2026 at the Methodist Church in Caldicot. This is to allow plenty of time for the accounts to be done – now done on Beacon. It was also agreed that the date of the next Committee meeting will be 26th March 2026 at the Methodist Church in Caldicot.