

MINUTES OF THE 34th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF LINCOLN U3A
Held on 3rd March 2026, 10.15am
at The North Hykeham Memorial Hall, Newark Road, Lincoln

1. WELCOME

The Chair welcomed all members in attendance.

One of our members, James Power, sadly passed away on 12th February. Many will remember Jim and many will know his wife Joy, our long time former refreshment hostess; sympathy was extended to Joy and all family and friends.

Members were invited to stand and take a few moments to remember Jim and other members who have sadly passed away during the last year.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (COMMITTEE MEMBERS ONLY)

David Hunter, Marie Elliott, Mitch Elliott.

3. MINUTES OF THE 33rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The minutes had been circulated and a paper copy was available at today's meeting.

The minutes were approved and accepted by the meeting, and signed by the Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

5. REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Lincoln u3a has had another very successful year.

- Membership has grown by just under 20% and now stands at 258; this includes 29 memberships that were not renewed. 28 new members have already joined in 2026.

- New interest groups have started and a few have folded. More groups are required to enhance our offering to members and ideas for new groups are welcomed, especially from those willing to become a convenor.

- Coach trips are now offered. The first 2 were well-received and the next is a trip to York on Tuesday 17th March. Places are still available, for details contact Andy Briggs.

- Attendance at our monthly meetings at the Memorial Hall have steadily increased over the year. Between 65 and 90 members attend and enjoy a wide variety of speakers and entertainment.

Thanks to Linda Ash, our Refreshment Hostess, for her hard work in organising refreshments at the monthly meetings, and to the team of volunteers who assist her.

- Our new membership database, Beacon, went live in January. This will manage all aspects of membership requirements and replaces the previous Excel spreadsheet that served us well for many years; thanks to Brian Windsor who designed and originally managed this.

- Our u3a is totally reliant on the members of the committee who give up their time to ensure its smooth running. Three members are retiring and are thanked for their time served and for their support: David Hunter: Chair of Convenors, Marie Elliott: Minutes Secretary, Mitch Elliott: Committee member.

- Opportunities exist to join the Committee:

Assistant to the Social Secretary (new role) and Speaker Finder currently undertaken by Mary York; this would allow her to focus on her other roles, in particular as we embrace the financial modules of the Beacon system.

- As well as members of the committee who voluntarily ensure that Lincoln u3a operates so well, thanks go to Andi Bradley, our Newsletter editor, for a superb document which is widely regarded as one of the best in the county;

Chris Pritchard and Anne Birkett for managing the book club so well, at every monthly meeting;

Penny Chaffick and Jayne Turk for their regular support at reception, as part of the meet and greet operation at monthly meetings, which is so important for new and prospective members.

- The new Constitution and Local Rules documents are available on the website. As previously advised, the committee voted unanimously to adopt these late last year; our thanks to the sub-committee members John White, John Wilson, Sally Graves for their hard work in co-ordinating these documents.

The documents need to be ratified for their formal adoption by Lincoln u3a:

Proposed: John Wilson. Seconded: John White. Outcome: No objections and agreed.

6. REPORT OF THE TREASURER

The end of year accounts recorded an operating profit of £1,085 compared to a loss of £1,254 last year.

Balance at 31.12.2025:

Current Account = £6442.77. Social Account = £604.94. Curling Account = £104.65.

Newsletter cost this year to date = £1417. 50/50 income this year to date = £143.50.

- The purchase of a card reading machine is being looked into, which could greatly assist with membership payments and renewals. Options are currently being assessed, thank you John Wilson for your work on this.

- Renewal payments for next year will not be accepted before January, this will allow us to carefully manage the process within the new Beacon database. A reminder will be issued nearer the time.

- The entry cost for monthly meetings will be increasing to £2 from April 2026, necessitated by increases in hall hire fees, refreshments and speaker engagement fees. This still represents value for money and the £1 cost has been held for a long time.

7. APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

Allan Fullen has offered to continue in this role and it was proposed to accept. The meeting voted in favour.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

Each role has one nomination and requires one proposer and one seconder:

Chair: Jim Innes. Proposed Jude White. Seconded Elaine Lewis.

Vice Chair: Sue Firth. Proposed John White. Seconded Lyndsey Cutts.

Treasurer: Mary York. Proposed Isabel Anson. Seconded Patsy Booth.

Secretary: Sally Graves. Proposed Anita Innes. Seconded Christine Pritchard.

Membership and Beacon Secretary: John Wilson. Proposed David Marshall. Seconded Ellie White.

Chair of Convenors: Sarah Hawley. Proposed Sue Williams. Seconded John White.

Webmaster: Sue Firth. Proposed Jude White. Seconded John White.

Welfare Officer: Anita Innes. Proposed Barbara Bond. Seconded Ellie White.

Social Secretary: Andy Briggs. Proposed John White. Seconded John Wilson.

Committee Member: John White. Proposed Anita Innes. Seconded Ellie White.

Outcome: the nominations were agreed by the members present.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no additional items raised.

Meeting closed at 11.00am.

Signed: Jim Innes

Date: 16 April 2026