

Minutes of Committee Meeting
Thursday 18th December 2025
9 Lloyd Taylor Close, Little Hadham, SG11 2NB

Present	Nigel Varnam / Chair – NV Linda Ketteridge / Vice Chair Ryland Perrin / Treasurer – RP John Bailey / Asst. Treasurer – JB Anne Willett / Membership Sec. & Events Co-ordinator – AW Dave Willett / Minutes & Comms – DW Linda Maxwell / Speaker Co-ordinator – LA + John Acklaw (potential new Ctte member) - JA + Barbara Jacobs (potential new Ctte member) BJ + Elaine Lummis (potential new Ctte member) EL	Action
Apologies	Annie Compton / Groups Co-ordinator – AC Pam Archer / Business Secretary - PA	
Minutes	Minutes to be put on Drive by end of month	DW
Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NV still to sort out new battery for defibrillator 	NV
Committee issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recruitment of new Ctte members from Jan 2026. We are nearly there now with interest from – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> John Acklaw – Bus Sec Elaine Lummis – Asst Treasurer Barbara Jacobs – Mem Sec Chrissy Thear – Events Co-ordinator DW will leave the Ctte, but continue with Newsletter for the time being. Further appeals will be made to recruit somebody. AGM preparation – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PA will sort out nomination forms for JA and CT (Events) and BM (Speaker Co-ordinator), and EL. Deadline for nominations is the 22nd December PA to print the signing in sheets for members at the AGM DW to send NV all paperwork and Powerpoint from last year's AGM. RP already has this. RP to update 2025 accounts on pwrpt slide for the AGM DW to draft Chair's report DW to send AGM Agenda to all members from the 23rd with the accounts which are now on the website. Details will also be in the Newsletter which goes out to members on the 31st. 	PA PA DW RP DW DW

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charis Centre update – NV explained the story behind the move from the CC to the United Reform Church (URC) next door. On 15th a group from the Ctte met the staff at the URC for a successful visit. The URC has everything we need, kitchen, chairs, balcony seating, and tech support. We will go back for a rehearsal of the tech. and chair setting up on 30th March. Cost of hire is less than the CC. A few things to do as well – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NV to thank CC for their hospitality over the past three years LM/BM to book as far ahead as possible, 2026 and 2027 if possible so that we have some security here. Unanimous agreement that for this new venue from April 2026, will be a 2pm start. DW to send a poster to all members via Beacon by 20th January. Poster will also be in the Feb and March Newsletters, and NV will mention this at monthly meetings. Unanimous agreement as well on buying another Auracast system for meetings which we can then donate to the URC. Cost is only about £45. 	NV LM/BM DW
Member - ship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 607 at present, including 5 more recently. There were about 70 lapsed members overall. 	AW
Bus Sec's Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything is up to date. 	PA
Meetings and Spkers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2026 programme all done. 2027 programme in progress. 	LM/BM
Finances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank accounts are healthy as usual. Another donation from Riviera Travel for about £500 should arrive early in 2026. RP talked about groups who have a large amount in their accounts, especially History and Customs & Cultures. There is now a new History Group leader who may dip into these funds. Another appeal will go out for a C&C Gp Leader, but we agreed to leave these funds alone for the time being. Bids for money from groups. We agreed to make this offer again from April onwards. Table Tennis – one group in arrears. RP to discuss with Gp Leader 	RP
Groups update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BSL (British Sign Language) AC was very grateful for the funding of her talk. 45 people attended and 26 have expressed an interest in learning BSL. AC to follow this up soon. New Groups ideas 	AC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wine Tasting Club – only 4 people interested but no interest in organising this at present ○ Film Club – only 3 people interested ○ Creative Writing – only 2 people interested. AC may offer something. 	
Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Christmas Lunch – Tuesday 2nd December. 92 tickets were sold. It went well. Thanks goes to JB and AW for organizing this. There were compliments about the food, service and the atmosphere. ● AW to email a thank you to the golf club. 	AW
Diary update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All good. Communications about this continue to work well. 	TR
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● January Newsletter – well underway. ○ AC has received an email from South Mill Arts about availability of their space over the Christmas period. DW to place this in the Newsletter so that groups that use the SMA will be aware. DW also to email SMA and thank them for their hospitality over 2025. 	DW AC
Calendar check	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Up to date with key tasks to be done. JB to check and advise Ctte <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nick Ambrose will be asked to set up emails addresses for new Ctte members in January. ○ Trustees annual report to the Charity Commission will need to be prepared early in 2026. ○ Induction of new Ctte members also important. 	
Cloud/Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All up to date 	
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None 	
Meeting closed	<p>12 pm <u>DONM - Thursday 15th January 2026 - 10am</u></p> <p>Anne & Dave's house</p> <p>This will be the last meeting here. NV will ask the URC if we can use their entrance area from Feb 2026. If not, other venues to be explored.</p>	