

Barnsley and District Branch

Minutes of committee meeting held on 12th May 2026

Present

Terry Kendall, Alyson Francis, Ken Booth, Barrie Cooper, Jan Cooper, Doris Wragg

1. Welcome

Terry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Ann Marie Sephton, and Nishadi Perera.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2026 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Terry reported that Parkinson's UK had now confirmed that Cassie could not take up a volunteering role with the Branch due to a conflict of interest with her job at Utility Warehouse. Cassie and her mum will still organise the tombola stall at the coffee morning on 30th May.

(b) The total raised at Tesco on 18th April was £279.41.

(c) Terry has been informed unofficially that we have been awarded £1,500 by the Shawlands Trust for the exercise class but has not yet received official confirmation.

(d) Plants for the Plant Sale at Locke Park can be dropped off at Philip's as usual as his daughter will be here that day.

5. Emma's report

No items. Emma has sent out Network News.

6. Chair's report

Terry reported that the Stroll project had ended the previous week. Whilst feedback from the physio team is awaited, it seems to have been beneficial for everyone who has participated, particularly by improving gait and cognitive skills.

Terry said it was difficult to know what the next steps would be. The cost of hiring a physio and equipment costs around £200 per month but as it is medical it can only be used in a clinical situation. However, there are sitting down exercises that could be useful as they could be performed in the home. With Barnsley recently having been recognised as the UK's first tech town, Terry suggested that it could be a project that students could develop based around Stroll which would feed into the standard virtual reality products that are on the market to enable people to use it at home.

7. Treasurer's report (emailed by Nishadi)

- (a) The committee noted the bank statement as at 30th April 2026 which showed an adjusted cash and bank balance of £29,038.55.
- (b) Terry and Nishadi had held a meeting with Crossroads Care at which the hourly rate was discussed. They explained that due to increases in National Insurance contributions and taxes, they were no longer able to continue at the previous rate of £20.80 per hour and would be increasing it to £22.80 per hour. They also mentioned that there were no price increases last year. After discussion, the committee agreed to go ahead with the increase of £2 per year.
- (c) So far the Branch has spent £3,837.60 of the restricted Community Lottery fund received on 21st November 2025 and only £10,946.40 remains available to fund the respite care service.

Terry will arrange a meeting with Nishadi and Bronia to review Bronia's SLA.

7. Secretary's report

No items.

8. Service Development report

Walk on 23rd April – 9 people attended, the guide at Old Moor made it enjoyable and very interesting.

Trip to Bakewell, 16th June – 22 people now attending. Alyson is still asking if anyone else wishes to go. It was agreed that if anyone outside the branch would like to come they will be charged the full cost.

Golf – not started yet due to small number of people. Alyson will move it to the first Thursday in the month to see if attendance improves.

Boxercise, 8th May – 8 pwp, 5 carers.

Barrie circulated a document showing the combined attendance at the Branch's activities from the AGM on 17th February to 8th May.

Terry confirmed he had booked space in Locke Park for both the Classic Car event on 14th June, where we sell plants, and 9th August when we have an awareness stand and sell jigsaws.

Terry will ask Emma is there is any reason people cannot join two branches. Also, if we invite them to come to any of our activities, should they pay the same as our members or the actual cost.

Whilst George bought the provisions for the exercise class from branch funds, under the new arrangement the provisions are being provided by class members or cash donations, which currently stand at a surplus of £75. Terry had suggested that the surplus could be used towards the cost of the Afternoon Tea in October. Barrie and Jan had spoken to the members of the class and they had agreed to this. The committee endorsed the decision.

Terry circulated the activity programme as of May. It was agreed we would have an awareness stand at the Goldthorpe Summer Gala on 12 August.

9. Fundraising report

Terry reported that Laura, a Stroll physio, is training to participate in a marathon with a view to raising funds to be split between our Branch and the Chesterfield Branch.

Also, the Rotary Club have recently celebrated their 50th anniversary and have agreed to donate the proceeds of their raffle, about £600, to the Branch.

10. Assistant Treasurer's report (emailed by Nishadi)

11 carers took 4 hours, the carer at branch meeting 2¾ hours
Total for April £971.40.

11. Membership Secretary's report

No items.

12. Webmaster's report

No items.

13. Research Champion's report

Barrie reported that a research project was being carried out in Japan which involves injecting stem cells into people's brains to regenerate them.

14. Any other urgent and relevant business

There was no other business.

15. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th June at 7.00 p.m.