

Barnsley and District Branch

Minutes of committee meeting held on 14th July 2026

Present

Terry Kendall, Ann-Marie Sephton, Alyson Francis, Ken Booth, Barrie Cooper, Jan Cooper, Doris Wragg, Emma Lillico.

1. Welcome

Terry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Nishadi Perera.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th June 2026 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

(a) Terry reported that feedback had now been received from the Stroll programme in which six people had participated, carrying out a range of activities over a six week period followed by a break of five weeks and then another four week period.

Two PwP progressed from using a walking aid to unaided, the largest gains were seen in mobility and gait speed. The median results were: Sit-to-stand exercise showed 22% increase; Timed-up-and go improved by 44.5%; Dual tasking 27.6% increase; Gait speed – 10m walk 29.5%; Balance 16.7%; Falls confidence 12.6%. Five of the participants felt they had gained some benefit but were of the opinion that it would be useful to continue using the equipment at home but acknowledged there were practical difficulties in doing so.

(b) The donation of £647 has now been received from the Rotary Club. It was agreed that it would be put towards the cost of the Carers' Pamper Day.

(c) Ken reported that whilst the Announcements Section on WhatsApp is private, once people start chatting their mobile numbers they need to be aware that their numbers are visible.

(d) Doris has contacted Crossroads and they have agreed to provide the respite care service to the couple who live at Notton, which is just outside the Barnsley area.

5. Emma's report

- (a) With regard to recruiting a replacement for Terry, Emma suggested that we could look at the tasks that need replacing and make the chair's role more manageable with volunteers undertaking some of the tasks outside that role
- (b) Groups are now able to have a website as part of Parkinson's UK. Groups would still manage the website but the template would be the same as the national website. Once Emma has more information, she will forward it to Ken.
- (c) From June the mileage rate for expenses has increased to 55p per mile.
- (d) Emma reported that people can be members of more than one group but she is asking her colleagues if they know of any such situations. Possible issues that could arise are members having the same facilities but being subsidised; whether they should donate to both groups; and whether they could attend both activities. It was also noted that people who are not members benefit from the branch's services.
- (e) A regional volunteer celebration event will be held on Friday, 4th September in Doncaster, timetable to be confirmed.

6. Chair's report

- (a) Dr. Verma, a Neurologist, has now been appointed at Barnsley Hospital and she has been given contact details of people with Parkinson's.
- (b) Various hospitals are now signing up to the Get-it-on-Time Campaign to say how they manage people with Parkinson's.
- (c) As part of the Blue Badge Campaign, Terry has received pre-printed postcards for people to send to the Leader of Barnsley Council asking him to ensure that a number of measures are carried out when assessing applications for blue badges from people with Parkinson's.

7. Treasurer's report

The committee noted the bank statement as at 30th June 2026 which showed an adjusted cash and bank balance of £27,824.89.

8. Secretary's report

No items.

9. Service Development report

Trip to Bakewell: 19 people attended instead of 23. Feedback was that everyone enjoyed the trip.

Walk: 25th June – 6 people attended the walk at Cannon Hall.

Golf: 4th June – 6 people; 7th July – 5 people.

Boxercise: 12th June - 11 people, 19th June – 13 people, 26th June cancelled, 10th July – 11 people.

Afternoon Tea, October 20th: to be held at the Holiday Inn Dodworth

Carers' Day, 26th November: Alyson has made a provisional booking for 20 people.

Barrie circulated the combined annual attendance records for the Branch's activities up to July.

Terry circulated the activity programme as of July.

10 Fundraising report

£351 was raised at the Plant Stall in Locke Park on 14th June.

Mark Guest and his wife have raised £842.00 through sponsorship of the Barnsley 10k and will be invited to a formal presentation at the branch meeting.

11 Assistant Treasurer's report

No items.

12 Membership Secretary's report

Ann-Marie reported that there were 141 members on the latest list.

13 Webmaster's report

Ken reported that he had updated the meetings/events page on the website.

14 Research Champion's report

No items.

15 Any other urgent and relevant business

There was no other business.

16 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 11th August at 7.00 p.m.