



Minutes: Annual General Meeting

1 July 2026 at 2.30pm

VAC, Resource Centre, Hall St., Halifax HX1 5AY.

Present

Malcolm Kielty (Chair) Chris Willis (Treasurer), Julie Ingham, Justin Magner, Maggie Griffiths (Age Concern Todmorden), Rachel Horner (Age UK), Moni Noszak (Staying Well), Phil Ingham.

Apologies: Shabir Hussain

Part 1 - Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome. MK opened the AGM.
2. Matters Arising from last year's AGM (MK)
None.
3. Overview of the last year (JI)

The Forum is now in year two of National Lottery Community Funding and all elements are being implemented. Funding from sponsorship is healthy with 4 sponsors now in place but due for renewal in August through to October. Funding from Calderdale Council has enabled us to provide support for the Age Friendly Calderdale movement facilitated by Justin Magner.

Key operational updates were given on the website (100,000 page views in the year), the InTouch directory (328 listings), email newsletters (growth from 1,375 to 1,707 subscribers), paper newsletters (500 copies printed and delivered each month).

Age-Friendly Calderdale initiatives include the promotion of the annual survey and funded events, support for network development and initial work undertaken to support the accreditation for age-friendly businesses.

4. Accounts and financial position (CW)

Closing balance at 30 April was £20,381.86.

Sponsorships received this year: £8,675 (includes an additional compensation for account issues of £100 from Barclays).

Lottery grant of £19,000. Now in year 2 of National Lottery funding with approximately £14,000 available to spend by end March 2027. There are sufficient funds to allow more targeted online advertising (Facebook bursts have proven effective) to increase newsletter sign-ups and site traffic, more content focused on key ageing issues and additional event attendance to raise awareness.

RH suggested providing flyers with QR codes for key events that Age UK attend e.g. Calderdale Agricultural show in early August).

Proposed marketing actions to be costed (JI).

The accounts were checked by RH and audited through Martin Flynn (who is the Disability Partnership Calderdale finance operator)

Online banking now implemented eliminating the need for issuing cheques.

5. Review of the Constitution

The committee discussed two suggested amendments to the constitution.

It was pointed out by MG that voting qualification for amendments was not expressly stated in the constitution. An additional point to be added to section 4 confirming 'A minimum of 4 persons required for amendments to be passed.' Motion carried.

Item 6.3: Move to quarterly meetings (from bi-monthly currently) proposed by JI. Dates of meetings to be scheduled in advance to enable a more business-focused approach to each meeting and align with the funding situation. Specific themes added to the agenda. Visitors to be invited as appropriate to the theme. Motion carried.

Action : JI to revise the constitution, MK to approve and sign revised document. JI to circulate.

6. Election of Committee members

Committee members re-elected for another year. MK as Chair, JI as Secretary and CW as Treasurer. RH and MK agreed to continue as committee members. MG invited to join and represent Age Concern Todmorden. MG to discuss with Sam Johnson (Service Manager at Age Concern Todmorden).

JM commented that the ongoing establishment of the Age Friendly Network and subsequent recruitment of Age Friendly Ambassadors could help us recruit additional committee members.

AGM closed at 3pm.

Part 2 - Committee Meeting

Minutes of the last meeting

Accepted in full.

Finance Update

Further discussion on ensuring all funds from the Lottery Community fund are spent and properly accounted for by the end of March 2027.

Communications Update (PI)

- Website performance (year to 30 June/July period): 100,000 page views (up 40% from 71,000) and stable unique visitors (39,000–40,000).
- Newsletter: subscribers increased from 1,375 to 1,707 over 12 months; 500 printed copies distributed monthly plus email/PDF circulation.
- InTouch directory: 328 listings added in 12 months (regular groups/activities listings drive repeat traffic).
- Event calendar: 550 events added in the year (approx. 50 per month); combined with InTouch this amounts to around 900 new posts/pages across the year.
- Content strategy: shifted away from high-volume local news to targeted, practical advice (e.g., how to access benefits, bus passes, NHS app); plan to develop FAQ-style guidance and aggregate high-value resources (e.g., Independent Age) with signposting and credit.
- Forum presence: six events attended in the past 12 months to promote Forum; suggestion made by RH for Age UK staff to hand out Forum flyers at Calderdale agricultural show in August.
- Promotion: Facebook advertising campaign (Jan–Apr) was effective at raising traffic and sign-ups; bursts of online advertising recommended again.

Age Friendly Calderdale Update

JM provided an update on Age Friendly Calderdale project and its plans for this year and into 2027. JM reminded the meeting that Age-Friendly Calderdale is led by the Ageing Well Alliance Board.

- Network launch: An Age-Friendly Calderdale Network has been launched through Calderdale Forum 50 Plus and will be promoted ongoing.
- Ageing Well Ambassadors will be recruited from the Network to help shape local Age-Friendly plans.
- Accreditation scheme for businesses: a simple age-friendly accreditation process (focused on respect/communication, physical environment, service communication) has been piloted and will be promoted throughout the next year. Age UK Calderdale and Fit20 have signed up. Details now available on the Forum website.
- Access guides: A simple, visually focused template has been developed for venues and community groups to start using.

- The business accreditation and access guides will be published on the Forum website and through Visit Calderdale.

News and Updates including Older Age Issues

MG reported on Age Concern activities including support for Old Library in Cornholme's Tuesday lunch club (initial attendance six people; working to increase reach via door-to-door outreach and leaflets).

MN reported on a Staying Well event at Hebden Bridge Hall which attracted around 250 attendees.

RH reported on an Age Without Limits event in June very successful and included seated dancing and intergenerational activities with school children; interest in creating regular intergenerational game sessions in future.

MK stated that the Young at Heart Club attendance has dropped from from 40–45 weekly to 20–25. MK exploring ways to attract more attendees.

MN/RH added that befriending referrals: high demand for befriending and support for people who consider themselves housebound; aim to move clients toward social groups and community activities where possible.

Any Other Business

None.

Dates of Next Meetings

In line with agreement at the AGM on scheduling quarterly meetings, proposed dates as follows with each meeting starting at 2.30pm.

Wednesday 14 October

Wednesday 13 January

Wednesday 14 April

Wednesday 14 July (AGM)