

Parkinson's UK

Barnsley and District Branch

Minutes of committee meeting held on 12th August 2025

Present

Terry Kendall, Ann-Marie Sephton, George Spencer, Alyson Francis, Ken Booth, Barrie Cooper, Jan Cooper, Doris Wragg, Rose Crawley

1. Welcome

Terry welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Kathie Sharman and Nishadi Perera.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th July 2025 were agreed as a true record.

4. Matters arising

- (a) Terry reported that, in addition to the exercise classes at Royston being carried out by the 'Parkinson's qualified instructor,' Barnsley Premier Leisure had now put out a leaflet promoting her exercise classes at the Metrodome. She is also wearing a PUK t-shirt during the classes which implies she is endorsed by PUK. Further to this, a man had approached Terry at our information stand in Locke Park at the weekend and complained that he had tried to get hold of her but got no reply. Terry had had to explain that although she had done online training, she was nothing to do with PUK.

Rose felt that we could not ask her not to wear a t-shirt as PUK actively encourages people to wear them to promote the charity. However, she expressed concern regarding the man's complaint which would reflect badly on PUK. Rose will pass Terry's comments to the brand team and report back at a future meeting.

Terry also reported that Bronia had received an email from a lady with Parkinson's who had received an email regarding a support group for people under 60 which had been set up in Rotherham. It was not evident from the email that the sender was a bona fide person connected to PUK and the lady was concerned about how she had got hold of her email address. Rose was aware that a Younger Persons Support Group had been set up in Rotherham but agreed to look into the issue and report back.

- (b) Rose reported that Alison Lofas had contacted Carolyn Turton in February regarding the apparent lack of a neurologist clinic in Barnsley Hospital. Following this, Alison had received a message saying they had an interim clinician at the hospital but he had left so they were in the process of appointing another. The elderly care

consultants are already based there. Alison has been given the names of three Barnsley hospital staff and she is following it up with them. Once the outcome of these conversations is known, Alison will decide whether to contact our local M.P. as suggested by a member at one of our branch meetings.

(c) Terry reported that following his and Barrie's trial of the virtual reality glasses, he had submitted a report based on their experiences. The chair of the Darlington branch who had supplied the kit was surprised that their experiences did not emulate the success he had had with them. However, Terry has submitted a further request to Tracy Westgarth for a grant of just over £3,000 to fund a further eight week trial using Strolll for 8 of our members.

5. Rose's updates

- (a) A Research and Information event is to be held at the Coal Mining Museum at Wakefield on 3rd October from 10.00 a.m.–3.00 p.m. Rose will feed back Terry's concerns regarding the difficulties of booking online.
- (b) Rose reported that it was felt that the official name of the charity, Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom, was not positive and we should discourage the use of 'disease'. Therefore, from 1st April 2026 the name will be changed to Parkinson's UK. The effect on branches will be minimal and the change will be made by PUK for those branches who have cash pooling.
- (c) Rose queried the position regarding volunteers as Kathie would be standing down at the next AGM. Rose will arrange a meeting with Nishadi to review her role as Assistant Treasurer.

Terry reported that Sarah Juhasz had informed him that the college would be holding a volunteering event so she would be looking into whether there were any students who could help Ken with the website and will put Terry in touch with the Digital Media Centre. Rose suggested that perhaps Sarah could take on a project to see how we can develop our membership. Rose also stated that our insurance/safeguarding policy does not cover under 18's. Doris will include Sarah in the distribution list for the committee agenda and minutes.

6. Chair's report

No items.

7. Treasurer's report

The committee noted the bank statement as at 31st July, which showed a total adjusted cash and bank balance of £24,547.75.

8. Secretary's report

No items.

9. Service Development report

Boxing – 18th July cancelled due to RHS flower show at Wentworth. Chris, who runs the classes, has obtained a grant from the activity fund. Rose will put a link to the Barnsley Branch on the PUK website

Walk, 24 July – six people attended.

Golf, 5th August – three people attended.

Afternoon tea, 21st October – 40 people on the list. Payment in full at least one week prior to the event.

Bowling, 4th November – booked at Barnsley Bowl, Carlton.

Terry circulated an updated activity programme as at July 2025.

10. Fundraising report

Terry is submitting an application to the National Lottery for a grant of £12,500 for fourteen people to take respite care.

11. Assistant Treasurer's report

No figures available.

12. Membership Secretary's report

Ann-Marie reported that there were 157 members on the latest list.

13. Webmaster's report

No items.

14. Research Champion's report

Barrie will be giving a presentation on DBS to the next branch meeting. In addition to two videos showing the operation, a lady, who lives in Barnsley, who has had the operation will be attending. Barrie stated that he had recently received his Beech Band, early signs were encouraging in that his tremor seemed less intrusive. Two other items were brought to the committee's attention, those being a clinical trial using the drug ondansetron and its effect on PwP suffering hallucinations and the setting up of a Yorkshire & Humber Research Group.

15. Any other urgent and relevant business

(a) The exercise rota for September was agreed.

- (b) George reported that the room at the last exercise class had been left in a mess by the previous occupier which had meant about 15 minutes were lost clearing it up. Terry agreed to raise the matter with the Emmanuel bookings officer.
- (c) Referring to the Christmas party on the 9 December, Ann-Marie stated she may be indisposed at that time as she was awaiting a knee operation. It was agreed we should look to find someone else who could do the catering on the day. Three organisations were suggested – Kirsty at the boxercise class; Amy at the Darfield Garden centre and the Crossroads Café. Terry and Alyson agreed to pursue these options.

16. Date of next meeting

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