

STOKESLEY PROBUS CLUB

Committee Minutes for 2025 - 2026

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Committee Minutes for 2025 - 2026

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20th May 2025

In attendance: Keith Waller, Paul Bruce, Chris Griffiths, Keith Bell,
Graham Howard, Chris Lee

Apologies: Brian Clarke, Kevin Clifford, John Edwards, Derek Whiting

1. The Chairman started the Meeting with a follow-up to the AGM:
 - a welcome return with new tenures 2025 to 2028 to:
Kevin Clifford, Graham Howard and Derek Whiting as GMs
 - a welcome to Paul Bruce as a new GM 2025 to 2028
 - a welcome to Chris Griffiths as the new SF 2025 to 2028
 - thanks to Maj Chuhan for renewing his tenure as Auditor 2025 to 2028
 - thanks to everyone for fulfilling their roles
2. Minutes of last Meeting held on Tuesday 18th March 2025 – accepted
3. Matters Arising – the Chairman expressed thanks to Bob Scott for ‘Minuting’.
 - check Chris Griffiths entry to Committee distribution list (Listed).
 - No other issues raised.
4. Paul Bruce: future issues for the Club – Recruitment.
Paul started with a contextual background.

SPC provides excellent ‘value for money’.
SPC is one of the well-managed Clubs.

The interaction of Members with varied career backgrounds is excellent.

The social conversations are excellent.

There is something for everyone in the Speaker Programme with most being enjoyable.

Paul summarised his Probus experiences as a Speaker across Scotland and the North of England highlighting successful and struggling clubs.

Paul delivered a well-thought-out presentation of ideas.

These were intended as ‘brainstorming ideas’ aimed at securing the future of SPC in terms of attracting new Members.

The main issues facing all Clubs and Societies being ‘aging memberships’, member health issues, Talks offered in other organisations so competition, diverse attractions in society.

Paul listed his ideas/suggestions for Committee discussion: see List

Committee discussion was limited due to time issues.

Initial responses:

- current recruiting via existing Members most effective (but more needed)
- history behind inviting Women into membership

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- a declining interest in 'Clubs' by people under retirement age
- Pauls' key point: "to look at the problem before it becomes a problem"

The Chairman thanked Paul for a very professional, comprehensive and thought-provoking presentation. Paul's commitment to supporting the future of SPC was appreciated.

Increasing Membership

- Offer an incentive to current members to introduce new members to the club and, once they become fully paid-up members, the person who introduced them is entitled to a free meal at the next arranged lunch.
- Offer an incentive to new members of an introductory free membership period (3, 6 or 12 months)
- Women members – I have already discussed this with the Chair but feel this could benefit from being revisited by the committee. I have attended several clubs in Scotland where women are welcomed – after all, there are professional and businesswomen in this world.
- Consider opening up the talk part of the meetings to the public, including women (for an entrance fee, which would boost funds) This could also potentially boost membership, as people would effectively be getting a "try before you buy" experience. At the end of the talk, the Chair could then thank the public who have attended and ask respectfully that they leave before the meeting commences.
- Agenda item for each meeting to remind members that we have an open door policy for new members to join.
- Flyers strategically placed around Stokesley (notice boards, shops, library, community hub, pubs, cafes etc.)
- Link with Rotary Club?
- Recruitment at the petrol pump?
- Reach out on social media and website
- Engage with large businesses in the area with a view to targeting soon-to-retire employees. Example – Council, Quorn factory in Stokesley, Thirteen Group – representative of club to liaise with their HR dept.

KW & PB 20.5.25

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Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 19th August 2025

1. Attendance and apologies: 6 attendees, 3 apologies
2. Minutes of previous Meeting held on 20th May 2025: Accepted
3. Matters arising: None
4. Paul Bruce – Recruitment

As Paul was unable to attend discussion was postponed. The Chairman advised that he would run through the status of Paul's proposals during the Members' Meeting to follow.

5. Committee Reports

Treasurer: Subscriptions – all now paid up in full. Christmas lunch – checked out Wainstones, which looks good after renovations. Dining Room has no furniture yet, but larger and looks much improved after upgrade. Will negotiate when prices set.

Secretary: All matters in order.

Website Manager: Website up to date.

Speaker Finder: Programme for 2026/2027: planning completed for the foreseeable future, but too early for some speakers to confirm. Fees around £40 and £50, with several speakers making no charge. Having difficulty contacting speaker for Shooting & Conservation talk.

6. AOB

Two new Members, David and Tom, are first to be recruited under the three month introductory scheme.

Next Meeting is on Tuesday 18th November 2025

JE 19.8.25

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Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 18th November 2025

Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Attendance: Keith Waller, Chris Lee, Derek Whiting, John Edwards, Kevin Clifford
2. Apologies: Keith Bell, Brian Clarke, Chris Griffiths, Graham Howard
3. Minutes of previous Committee Meeting held on 18th August 2025: Accepted
4. Matters arising: None
5. Committee Reports

Treasurer: Christmas Lunch: The Wainstones Hotel requires payment up front, therefore, all attendees need to make payment to the Treasurer or direct to the Club's bank account by 2nd December 2025. Anyone cancelling after this date will be unable to receive a refund. As The Wainstones has waived cost of coffee & petit fours, the Club has been obliged to agree to these terms.

Since the renovations and addition of the popular cafe extension there is more demand for car parking in a reduced size car park, therefore, it is recommended that attendees arrive early and try to arrange car sharing.

Secretary: Nothing new to report.

Website Manager: Unable to attend, but Website up to date. The Minutes of Meetings and Speaker Notes now kept in separate folders. Christmas Lunch menu and booking form added. Also next year's programme is shown.

Speaker Finder: Unable to attend, but full programme for 2025/2026 in place.

Chairman: Tenure – Only one Committee role will expire at the 2026 AGM: Secretary.

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John Edwards to give consideration as to whether he is willing to stand for re-election.

6. Trips - £22 loss on York trip due to three cancellations.
7. AOB – No issues were raised.
8. Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 20th January 2026

JE 18/11/2025

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20th January 2026

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Committee Meeting – Carter Room at Stokesley Town Hall

Tuesday 20th January 2026 at 9.00am

Committee Meeting Minutes

1. Attendance: Keith Waller, Chris Lee, Chris Griffiths, Brian Clarke, Kevin Clifford, John Edwards, Graham Howard
2. Apologies: Keith Bell, Derek Whiting
3. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 18th November 2025: Accepted.
No matters arising.
4. Committee Issues:
Committee roles – the current tenure of Secretary will expire at the AGM in April 2026. John Edwards confirmed that he will stand for election again but

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will gladly withdraw if any Member wishes to put their name forward. At the 18.3.25 Committee Meeting, Members agreed to a suggestion to make all Committee roles a standard 3-year tenure. This was approved at the 15.4.25 AGM.

The immediate consequences are that the tenure of the Website Manager is changed from 2028 to 2026. Brian confirmed that he would be willing to stand again.

The tenure of the T&MS is changed from 2024-2029 to 2024-2027

Biographies – a Member has again suggested that biographies of Members be shown on the website. Following discussion, the Committee expressed no support for this proposal.

5. Committee Reports

Treasurer: Accounts all in order. Christmas lunch: to be reviewed and discussed during the Business Meeting.

Secretary: Nothing new to report.

Website Manager: Website up to date. Brian will take individual photographs of Committee Members at next Committee Meeting and upload to the website.

Speaker Finder: All talks booked until end of 2026. Currently filling slots for 2027. The Treasurer asked for an indication of the total Speaker fees for 2026-2027 as soon as they are known for accounts planning.

6. AOB – No issues raised.

7. Next Committee Meeting: Tuesday 17th March 2026

JE 20.1.26