

# Manx Footpaths Conservation Group

## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held at 7pm on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2019

At Douglas Golf Club, Pulrose

As the previous Chairman, Kevin Christian had resigned in October 2018, Peter Gunn took on the role of acting Chairman. Club Secretary, Amanda Jevons, had also resigned in October 2018 and Lesley Parkington stood in as acting Secretary.

### 1. Welcome:

Peter Gunn welcomed an audience of 40 members and called the meeting to order at 7.10pm. He thanked Kevin Christian and Mandy Jevons for their efforts on behalf of the group, and who had both resigned in October 2018 due to other commitments. Peter also thanked our outgoing President for his dedication to the group.

### Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received and noted en bloc.

### 2. To receive the Minutes of the AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 for approval

The minutes of the AGM held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 2018 were duly approved.

### 3. To receive the Chairman's Report.

As there is no official Chairman, a composite committee report rather than a Chairman's report was read out by Lesley Parkington.

Walk Programme: The Club has again provided a full programme of walks, 250 in all, throughout the year. Thanks to all our leaders and certainly the organisers who co-ordinate all the lists. They all, Bob Garrett, Jill Percival, Tony Archibald, Peter Gunn, Pat Mudie, Brian Beattie & Vanda Murray and David Leiserach, deserve our gratitude and so let's show that with a round of applause.

A special walking event arranged by Geoff Crabtree has been the 'The Triskellion Way'. This new pilgrimage trail of 36 miles was established in September 2016. Geoff set up this trail in six stages and the remaining two stages will take place next month finishing in Maughold on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Well done, Geoff, Thank you.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March saw the Annual Group Walk where 40 souls dodged the winter rains. Bob Garrett led an 8 mile and David Leiserach led an afternoon walk of 3 miles so that both groups would finish at a similar time.

Then a quick hop, step & jump into a shared afternoon tea together at Mylchreest Court. Thanks to our leaders and Lesley and Pat for setting out our delicious afternoon tea.

A new feature this winter has been the monthly Winter Talks: We thank Kevin Christian for this initiative as these lectures have been educative and fun and again we extend our thanks to the presenters. Firstly in October it was Captain Stephen Carter with an amusing talk titled 'Nautical Musings', and in November it was Andy Foxon who presented an absorbing story of 'Prehistoric Mann'. Then in February, the speaker was Andrew Johnson: 'The Old Ways are the Best. All were well attended and were socially warm.

The traditional Christmas Carol Service at St Luke's Church in West Baldwin was well attended, over 40 in all, and we are particularly thankful for Shirley & John Kneale who created, as ever, the carol sheets for us to sing along with his charms as organist.

On a more serious note: The Group's Insurance: This last year has been a rather difficult one: following a better understanding of the fine print from our Insurer. Now, with Recce's, Risk Assessment, First Aid kits, Hi-Vis Jackets and the election of a Safety Officer we are now deemed compliant. We recognise that it has been tough to absorb this new regime however we thank our walk leaders again, this time for being able to accept this change.

Also Laws of Data Protection: Earlier in the year, the new Data Protection Laws were brought into law in March 2018 to protect one's data. And finally, special thanks to Maree Harper for stepping into the breach to organise and arrange this AGM.

**4. To receive the Treasurer's Report:**

The Treasurer, Mr. Jack Verity presented his report which indicated that the group's financial affairs were in good order. Ken Harding asked that it be minuted that MFCG will commit to the ongoing financial provision of first aid courses for members. The Treasurer confirmed this point.

**5. To receive and approve the balance sheet and Accounts for the previous financial year.**  
The balance sheets and accounts for the previous financial year were duly approved.

**6. To appoint an auditor for the ensuing year.**

Mr. Julian Harper was duly appointed auditor for the ensuing year.

**7. To receive the Membership Secretary's report.**

At the end of last year, the membership on the database was 260 and today, here at the AGM, our membership on the database is 272. At this point of the year we have the most accurate picture of the membership. Of which; we have 5 Life Members: Dougie Newton, Peter Gunn, Bob Garrett, Max Stead, and Sir David Wilson.

I would like to welcome new members and I trust they get a lot of good walking and happy companionship. And this is very exciting in that, we have, in these recent weeks, welcomed 21 new members including three people who are in training to do a charity trek in Nepal in October for our Hospice. And too, new to us, is a young family who bring life & laughter to our walks.

A lot of members, 115 of them, pay by Standing Order and I do encourage more members to use this way of paying their subscriptions. Our new members are more savvy and do set up Standing Orders immediately.

So many cheques, 135 of them! And they do take so much of my time to process. So please do make an effort to ease this burden.

Those members with unpaid subscriptions, 17, will be reviewed at the next Committee Meeting in a fortnight time. Then they will be removed from the Database and will not receive the next Summer Walk Lists & Newsletter.

Database: 272.

Life: 5. S/O 115 Chqs: 135. Equals 255 plus Unpaid: 17. - Total 272

**8. To fix the Annual Subscription payable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2019**

Jack Verity proposed that the Subscription remain at £6.00 for 2019 and all agreed. We do not need to increase the subscription charge as we have money in the bank.

**9. To receive the Data Protection Officer's report**

Maree Harper read out the Data Protection Officer's report in her capacity of Data Controller under the umbrella of the Group's Committee. No questions arose.

**10. To receive the Safety Officer's report**

David Leiserach has been the Safety Officer so far but will now hand it over to Pat Mudie. David read out his report and stated that between 1 November 2018 and 19 March 2019, the club organised and publicised 56 walks but he has only received 47 Risk Assessments. That is an 83% success rate but walk leaders should ALL be submitting Risk Assessments. Please contact the clubs Safety Officer if you need help in carrying out a RA.

Pat Mudie stated that she and David are working on a simplified version of the Risk Assessment form which will be easily accessed from the Website.

**11. To receive the Footpaths Officer's report**

David Leiserach read out his report and informed the group about the Beach Buddies Environmental Festival in May and the IoM Walking Festival in October, asking for volunteers for both events. No questions arose from this and various speakers supported these events.

**12. To Elect a President for the Ensuing Year.**

Dougie Newton stood down as President in order for Bob Garrett to be Elected. It was proposed and seconded that Bob Garrett be President for 2019 and Bob was unanimously elected as President of the Group.

**13. To Elect the Committee Officers**

Chairman: Mr. Ken Harding was duly proposed and seconded.

Secretary: Mrs. Lesley Parkington was proposed and seconded and elected.

Member: Mrs. Fiona Vaz was proposed and seconded and elected to the committee. She will become Website administrator.

All elections were unanimous .

**14. Resolutions**

No formal resolutions were submitted

**15. Any Other Business**

Peter Gunn opened to floor to the members.

George Sharpe, asked if the club are interested in offering our support to the Government launch on Climate Change.

Jane Gunn reminded members that 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Group is coming up soon and asked if we can do something significant to celebrate it.

Christie Nuell stated the website is amateurish and needs to be more professional.

Bob Garrett asked if we can help Beach Buddies as they are helping to keep our footpaths in order.

Jack Verity said that we have £15,000 in the bank and would welcome suggestions from members as to how to spend it.

Vanda Murray would like thanks recorded to Kevin Christian for his innovative ideas for the club. What he achieved was good and we have all benefitted. All agreed. Our programme should be diverse. As well as the Special Interest Talks we could have Special Interest Guided Walks, maybe on a non-walking day, say Friday. Vanda suggested we also contribute to helping to fence fields for walkers to protect livestock.

After receiving no comments, Peter Gunn Closed the meeting at 8.10pm and supper was served.

Signed:

CHAIRMAN

Date: