



The Island's Premier Walking Group

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT MYLCHREEST COURT

2pm Wednesday 23rd October 2019

1. **Those present:** Ken Harding – KH, Lesley Parkington – LP, Maree Harper – MH, Jack Verity – JV, David Leiserach – DL, Pat Mudie – PM, Diana Kouvel – DK, Peter Gunn – PG.
2. **Apologies:** were received from: Fiona Vaz, Rose Cannell, Bob Garrett.
3. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** The minutes of the previous meeting, having been circulated beforehand, were approved and signed by the Chairman, Ken Harding.
4. **Matters arising from the previous minutes:**
 - KH thanked everyone for attending.
 - KH informed the committee that the final Winter Talk with Chris Callow is now in place but as Mr. Callow has not informed him of the charge, we should donate the usual amount. LP said that Dessie Robinson (November talk) just asked for petrol money so it was agreed he should be given the usual £30.
 - Biosphere Grant: KH has forwarded our paperwork to the Lottery Trust and we should hear within a couple of weeks if we have been awarded a grant.
 - Lily Publications: KH has received stock numbers of MFCG walking books from Lily Publications. There are 550 copies (the lowest stock number) of Hill Walks in stock which will last well into next year and therefore we probably don't need to update the books at this time. Other quantities in stock:- Holiday Walk – 1162, North Walks Short – 838 and Short Walks South – 670 copies.
ACTION: KH to return the books we took on 'sale or return' for the Walking Festival
 - Visit IoM: KH has contacted Visit IoM with our thoughts and they will be in touch in the future with regards to a 'Walking Forum'. The proposed celebration of the Millenium Way, which was to have taken place on 25th October has now been cancelled and replaced with a photoshoot on Tuesday 29th October. We will not now be represented.

5. Correspondence:

LP has sent a thank you letter to Cluffy Clague for his guided tour around Castle Rushen in the summer.

KH had replied to Yvette Burrows, Visit IoM, saying that we prefer an ad-hoc arrangement with Beach Buddies and are happy to assist with occasional beach cleans.

Emily Dempster of the Mammal Society is asking for our help in recording small mammal activity on our waterways. The committee agreed that this is not feasible in our biodiversity.

LP has confirmed with Douglas Golf Club that we will hold the AGM in the Meadow Pavilion on at 7pm on 18th March 2020 and will require sandwiches, cake & tea/coffee for £7.50 per head.

A Local Community Service coming to the South of the Island has asked if we would like to be included in their online directory (this was not read out at the meeting). There will be no cost to us and they will contact us when ready to go live.

November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month and Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation is asking us to take part in running, walking, swimming & cycling fund raising events for lung cancer research etc. JV suggested that everyone who walked in week commencing Monday 4th November to Sunday 10th should make a donation. LP is to send a copy of the email to Tony Archibald and Bob Garrett who will forward it to members and the committee are to talk to the individual groups before the event.

ACTION: LP to produce flyer for this event and reply to Hannah Clayton

6. Treasurer's Report:

JV reported that we have a balance of £1710.98, an increase of £64 from subs., and a balance from the reserve account of £14,410. PM asked if new bank signatories are finalised and KH replied that after a great deal of effort, they are. PM asked who are the current signatories, they are KH, JV, LP and PG.

7. Membership Secretary's Report:

MH reported that the data base is stable at 282 members, including 4 new members. MH has also sent out a request to those with email addresses to change to Standing Orders for their membership renewal and has had 17 members comply. This is a step in the right direction as we have 112 S.O's but 172 cheques, which creates a great deal of work. KH stated that it is an excellent idea to have a push to change to S.O's. LP asked JV if he informed the insurers about our extra members. He stated he did but will again now we have definitive numbers.

8. Date Protection:

MH stated that she did not believe that there have been any breaches.

9. Footpaths Officer's Report:

- DL said that if MFCG makes an agreement with a landowner, we must act on it immediately, e.g. Walk 9 in Hills Walks book.
The landowner will not now allow us to erect the signs that we promised to do several years ago.
The MFCG are allowed access only with prior permission.
- The DoI have published a change to the PRoW network changing a derelict railway line into a Cycle/Foot path. The Committee are asked to discuss the following changes:

Part of the derelict Kirk Michael to Ramsey railway line runs from Greenlands Avenue to Poyll Dooley Road in Ramsey.

There are very few ways to object to the straight part of the route becoming a Cycle-Path. Is the Committee willing to accept the "spur" off Dreeym Ollay which will allow cyclists to meet a footpath at right angles? The committee agreed to write to DoI asking for signage and, if possible, a barrier to stop bicycles and pedestrians colliding at the junction of the path into the housing estate

ACTION: DL to write to DoI regarding our concerns and request signs and, if possible, a barrier at the entrance to the housing estate.

10. Safety Officer's Report:

- PM reported that there is a very high percentage of R.A's being returned and this should improve substantially once the new R.A. forms come online.
- PM reported that there have been no repercussions from the two previous Incident Reports.
- KH stated that the new R.A. forms will shortly be available and in the future will form the basis for a generic R.A. FV to set this up on the website for November. LP suggested that all committee members carry a spare copy for those without access to a computer. PM thanked FV for tailoring the walks list to show which R.A's have been received.
- PM asked for, First Aid Kit, Hi-Vis jackets and mobile phone to be listed as a requirement on R.A's. KH replied that this will, instead, be included on the new Members Guidelines which are in the process of being revised and simplified.

ACTION: KH to revise and complete new, Members Guidelines.

11. Website Review:

- FV and KH have gathered information on options for updating the website, as it now looks outdated. KH stated that although our current Web manager has responded well to our needs, he has now moved off Island. KH will ask if his website has the capabilities to cover our future needs, but feels it is unlikely. In this case, we would use a Web master on Island who could provide us with instant access to our website. LP said that this was brilliant work from KH and FV and there are exciting times ahead. MH thanked DL for his excellent work on the walks lists.

12. 50th Anniversary 2021: Club began 14th March 1971

KH said that the committee should put forward ideas of how to celebrate the event and we should also ask general members. The celebrations could roll on throughout the year.

- MH and LP suggested a Gala Dinner with a speaker and music. A possible speaker would be the Island's Governor Sir Richard Gozney (plus his wife) as he is a great lover of nature, bird watcher and walker. MH also suggested the Manx Group 'Sloh Slaynt'.
- KH suggested we could walk the long distance footpaths
- KH suggested a club holiday in the UK (e.g. H & F holidays) with 3 walks per day to cater for all capabilities
- PM suggested an Anniversary badge. LP said she is disappointed that so few members display their Club Badges.
- PM suggested Afternoon Tea
- PG suggested we invite Clare Balding
- KH said that in order to raise money for the celebrations we may have to hold fundraising events.
- MH suggested that we could raise the subscriptions. This would have to be voted on at the AGM 2020.

ACTION: All committee members to ask members for suggestions during walks.

13. Committee structure, Roles & Responsibilities:

KH stated that things have changed since the Constitution was first drawn up. We now have six official positions plus four committee members. The constitution needs to be updated to reflect this and asked the committee to reflect, is it necessary to have so many on the committee?

DL suggested that any draft of a new Constitution should be presented to committee members at the next committee meeting so it can be discussed well in advance of the AGM. MH was stated that the new constitution must be presented and fairly discussed at the AGM. LP said that she, Jack Verity, Pat Mudie, Diana Kouvel and Rose Cannell are up for re-election in 2020. The President is asked if he would like to remain. JV asked if officers are obliged to stand down after three years. The answer was no, but they have to stand for re-election. DL said that the Footpath's Officer and Safety Officer's contact details are now on the walks lists.

14. Any Other Business:

- The AGM was discussed in general terms and LP asked that when the AGM paperwork is sent out we could ask members to RSVP to provide numbers for catering (43 members attended in 2019).
- DL asked for Sunday walks lists be sent to him much sooner.
- JV asked if Lily will be paying the royalties for the walking books on time in December so the accounts can be up to date for the AGM.
ACTION: KH to contact Lily
- KH presented the committee members with leaflets to spread out around the community.
- KH 'Walk the Isle of Man'. MFCG provided the majority of leaders/helpers. KH has suggested to Andrew Foxon that MFCG produce the walks programme for 28th September to 2nd October 2020. DL stated that feedback from customers was very positive and this was due to MFCG work and knowledge. LP said that it was a fantastic package compared with elsewhere.
- PM asked that all leaders are thanked for doing R.A's.
- PM asked for date of Group Lunch in January. The date is Sunday 12th January.
ACTION: KH to confirm date with The Palace Hotel.
- MH said that the January meeting is for discussing nominations and possible increase in subs., The increase in subscriptions, if agreed at the 2020 AGM, would not come into force until 1st January 2021.

15. Date of Next Meeting:

Wednesday 22nd January at 10am. At Mylchreest Court, Peel.

The meeting closed at 3.50 pm

Signed: K. HARDING CHAIRMAN

