



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL

10am. Wednesday 16th September 2020

Those present: Ken Harding – KH, Lesley Parkington – LP, Maree Harper – MH,
Pat Mudie - PM, PM, Peter Gunn – PG

1. **Apologies:** Apologies were received from David Leiserach and Jack Verity.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** having been circulated beforehand, were approved, and signed by the Chairman, Ken Harding.
3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:**
 - Maintenance of footpaths and conservation work as suggested by Diana Kouvel. As there are now several options for members to become involved, including Footpaths Friends, and as we have had no response to our offers of involvement from the Government, it was decided to draw a line under this item.
 - What3words has now been adopted by IoM emergency services.
ACTION: KH to put information regarding this and other options on the website.
 - Heritage Open Days. KH & Brian Beattie have completed Risk Assessments for our events and these will be forwarded to MNH.
ACTION: KH to forward completed Risk Assessments to MNH.
 - First Aid Courses. Twenty-three more members have now completed the course making a total of fifty-one First Aiders in the group. A good take up.
 - The final Hills Skills course takes place w/c 21st September. Thirteen places were taken. Once the final invoice is received from Andrew Foxon a copy will be sent to Manx Lottery Trust along with a thank you letter and the return of £200 for the places not taken up. After a period of time we will approach the Lottery Trust once more in the hope of receiving funding for more courses. Andrew Foxon will provide a news item and photos for the website.
ACTION: KH to finalise details with Lottery Trust.
 - Bob Garrett has handed over the position of Tuesday Walks Co-ordinator to Peter Corkish. Many thanks to Bob for his years of diligent work and good luck to Peter for the coming years.
 - A register of walkers for each walk is no longer necessary unless our Covid status changes.
 - A very comprehensive report on the Millennium Way signage has been sent to DoI by DL. It has been well received by DoI.
 - We have applied to become a member of IoM Biosphere and they will be in touch once finalised.
 - A link to Footpath Friends has been added to the website for those of our members who wish to help maintain footpaths.

4. Correspondence:

- General correspondence between LP and Manx Wildlife Trust.
ACTION: LP to reply with feedback saying that we are happy to be involved in future events.
- Heritage Open Days with MNH. Correspondence between Katie King and LP with details for our involvement with the event. There are very strict rules for us to be involved due to Covid 19.

5. Treasurer's Report: Jack Verity presented by LP in JV's absence

At the 9th September, 2020

Current a/c balance. £1,656.61

Savings a/c balance. £14,423.78

There have been many notable payments since our last meeting 3/07/2020 when the Current account balance was £4,050.56.

	£
Postage	159.14
Printing	70.00
Hill Skills training.	800.00
St. John's First Aid training.	600.00
AGM catering.	262.50
2nd Part of Website construction.	567.50
Sundry items (tea, coffee, milk etc).	30.36

Income (Subs). 51.00

There is little doubt that we are to incur a predicted loss of income over expenditure of at least £1000 during 2020. This will justify our increase in subscriptions to £10 from 1st January 2021. We will not have to transfer funds from our savings account to cover this.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Maree Harper

Total Membership: 288 which includes 13 new membership and four life members. Three members have passed away.

7. Data Protection Report: Maree Harper

As of 16. 09.2020 I am unaware of any recent breach of the law for Data Protection.

8. Footpaths Officer's Report – David Leiserach presented by KH in DL's absence

Report by Footpaths Officer to MFCG Committee 16 September 2020

Long Term Closure of Public Right of Way (PRoW)

As at 14 September 2020 the following PRoWs (in numerical order) are currently closed.

PRoW From / To Closed because of Status

273 Ocean Ford, Douglas Road Castletown to Poulson Park, installing new cables Should be finished today.

329 Raad Ny Foillan on the outside of Onchan Head – Closed Monday to Saturdays during working hours until 25 October 2019 but likely that the closure will be extended. Building work till 23 Jan 2021 but might be extended.

348- Diverted

352 - Closed from Scarlett Farm Lane to Witches Mill Construction of earthworks for new playing fields for CRHS till 30 Oct 2020

360 and **362** Crosby to Peel on the Heritage Rail Track On-going “improvements Reputedly complete!”

423 “Scout Glen”, from Athol Bridge on the A3 through to Grenaby General deterioration and weather damage - Works might be carried out in Spring and Summer 2021!.

632 From Riverbank Road to Gardeners Lane, Ramsey. Weather and water related damage Reputedly complete – DL to check

If there is an OFFICIAL closure, PLEASE do not use a PRoW.

Public Rights of Way (PRoW) Defects

In 2019, I recorded 129 reports of footpath defects. So far, I have reported 140 in 2020!

Between 1 January 2020 and 14 September 2020, I recorded 140 reports of footpath defects.

128 were passed on to the DoI and 8 were passed to DEFA for action.

3 did not require any action from the Government and one still requires an inspection before I can confirm it is a defect.

If you see a defect, please let me know – but I can only report it IF you supply an exact location and a picture!

GLUG

I attend meetings of the Green Lane User Group (GLUG) which is chaired by the Department of Infrastructure. I am impressed by the collective desire to prevent damage to the Green Lanes and improve them wherever possible. Unfortunately, due to a mechanical fault in my car I failed to attend the last meeting.

David Leiserach

Footpaths Officer

14 September

KH stated that DoE have now appointed a Footpaths Officer. There is now also a new ‘Walking Champion’ and DL has been invited to join the new ‘Footpath Committee’. More details when available.

The committee agreed that DL does an excellent job of reporting defects and problems and are incredibly grateful for his efforts.

9. Safety Officer’s Report: Pat Mudie

The majority of walk leaders are now filling in Risk Assessments. PM has created a letter, with a form attached, to remind walk leaders who are regularly forgetting to send R.A.’s.

All agreed that the R.A. form on the website is incredibly easy to use.

ACTION: KH will set up the online R.A.’s to go directly to PM.

Incident Report: PG stated that on 16.08.20 Jane Gunn had left the group to take a short cut. It is a grey area as to whether she was walking at her own risk and no longer the responsibility of the group. Jane is recovering well. PG feels that leaders should be encouraged to be more aware of people at the back of the group who are slower. KH stated that in all cases the walk leader should make sure an Incident Report is done. It must then be sent to the Safety Officer and Chairman who will forward it immediately to our insurers.

ACTION: KH to re-iterate the guidelines on incident reporting in his summer newsletter.

10. AGM general Report: Ken Harding

The AGM went well with no major concerns. KH thanked George Sharpe, with his background in high finance, for stepping in to oversee the accounts. The increase in subscriptions to £10 was accepted by those present.

11. Matters Arising from the AGM:

A change to the name of the group was welcomed by several members. LP has received one suggestion for the new name which can be discussed at the next committee meeting and details taken to the next AGM. PG said that we would have to check the constitution with regards to this. P.G. felt that returning committee members should be elected separately rather than en bloc. KH agreed but said that due to no nominations of members standing or leaving the committee, en bloc was adopted. The next AGM will require separate elections due to a change in committee members at the end of their length of service. It was decided to set aside the next meeting for 2021 AGM/Constitutional/Committee Officer matters.

12. Date and Venue for AGM 2021:

The Meadows Pavilion at Douglas Golf Club is an ideal venue, and all agreed on a date of Thursday 25th March 2021 at 7pm. MH suggested that as it is our 50th year we should have Shoh Slaynt to entertain us

ACTION: LP to book venue and entertainment.

13. Website:

KH said that the new website is now up and running and we have received positive feedback. The central management system allows better functionality and us to have much more control. We also have favourable rates from the web designer to add new functions. The Risk Assessment and Incident Report forms are working very well, the gallery is popular as is the calendar of events. MH asked for Application Forms and Standing Order Forms to be available on the website. KH said this can be done or we could ask potential members to contact MH for forms. It was agreed that forms will be sent out to potential new members. Those contacting enquiries@manxfootpaths.org will be forwarded to the membership secretary. MH asked KH to produce updated forms for the £10 subscriptions. LP said that we will need to remind members to update their standing orders.

ACTION: KH to update Application & Standing Order Forms.

14. 50th Anniversary Events 2021:

- **Group Holiday:** KH gave details of a walking holiday for 2021. A package with a Manx ABTA travel agent for a four night/3 day trip to Levisham near Pickering in the North York Moors National Park from Sunday 9th May to Thursday 13th, staying at either the Best Western Forest and Vale Hotel. Prices will be based on 36 persons and include coach from Heysham, qualified local guides and three walks on each day of various lengths, to allow inclusivity to all members. Prices with various UK walking holiday companies have been investigated and are significantly higher. LP thanked KH for the huge amount of work he has done to arrange this, and the committee fully agreed.
ACTION: KH to give full details in his winter newsletter.
- **Cap Badges/caps/tee-shirts.** It was generally thought that tee-shirts and caps might not be worn by members but KH has obtained a favourable price from a Manx retailer should we wish to go ahead with badges.

- **Entertainment events:** The club will subsidise the events by paying for the bands and they will be open to all members.

January Lunch - The Best Western Hotel in Douglas are not currently catering for parties due to Covid. KH suggested a buffet lunch. PM suggested the Commis Hotel or the Empress which is already offering a Christmas meal.

ACTION: KH to make enquiries re: venue.

March - Thursday 25th 2021 AGM with buffet and Shoh Slaynt band.

ACTION: LP to book venue and entertainment.

June - Woodbourne House, Douglas. A sit-down buffet meal with Baron Otto's Oompah band.

ACTION: LP to book venue and entertainment.

October - Ceilidh with Mollag Band at St. John's Football Club followed by a Hotpot supper with Niarbyl Catering.

ACTION: LP to book venue and entertainment.

15. **Any other business:**

- DL (presented by LP) has asked walk co-ordinators to complete and return winter schedules by 5th October as he will be away from 13th.
- DL asked that all reports now be included in minutes for the benefit of members. All Agreed.
- DL asked for time of committee meetings to be changed as he is now committed on Wednesday am. Wednesday pm was agreed by all.
- DL - As East Quay in Peel is closed to traffic until March '21, should walks starting from this area be delayed? The committee felt it was not necessary as there is pedestrian access to all areas and vehicular access to the North End of the promenade and Fenella Beach.
- DL - Some walks are extremely popular, should the committee advise walk leaders, where possible, to split the groups to no more than 20 people per group - KH felt that it should be left as is with guidance to leaders and walkers reiterated. It was agreed that leaders be asked to be aware of the size of the group and if necessary, split the group en route or create a middle marker to link the groups together.
- DL - Where visitors join a walk, it is my understanding that our insurers require us to take their contact details, are we doing this? Yes, this is done - We will remind leaders of this requirement.
- DL - Parts of the RNF go along the beach. Should we ask DoI and DfE to install better signage to warn visitors to beware of the tide? All agreed this is not necessary.
- DL - ProW 329, part of the RnF around the outside of Onchan Head has been closed for many months during working hours from Monday to Saturday for ongoing building work.
 - 1 - Should DoI be asked to sign an alternative route?
 - 2 - Should we request DoI to carry out an inspection and complete any works necessary to make it safe?
 - 3 - Should we inform DoI and DfE that extraordinarily little work appears to be being done on site and that for 5.5 days per week walkers are prevented from using that part of the RnF? The committee agreed to keep this item under review.
- DL - Feels that MFCG First Aid kits are not being regularly carried on walks. All agreed that the co-ordinators should be given them and be responsible for giving them on walks. Many members now carry their own kits. Guidelines on the website state that 'Walk Leaders should ideally carry basic-first aid kits for potential use on a walk, please contact your walk coordinator for availability'.
- DL - Should people leaving a walk let the leader know when they arrive at a safe place? All agreed that once they have officially left the group, they are no longer our responsibility.

19. Date of next meeting:

2pm Wednesday 18th November 2020 at Mylchreest Court, Peel.

20. Meeting closed at 12.20pm

Signed: K. HARDING CHAIRMAN