

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL

2.30p, Friday 24th. September 2021

Those Present: Ken Harding – KH, Lesley Parkington – LP, David Leiserach – DL, Peter Gunn – PG, Peter Corkish – PC, Pat Mudie – PM, Jack Verity – JV.

1. Apologies: Apologies were received from Gill Smith

2. Minutes of the previous meeting: having been circulated beforehand, were approved, and signed by the Chairperson, Ken Harding.

3. Matters Arising from previous meeting:

- PC pointed out that his name had been omitted from attendees at the previous meeting on 21.07.21. LP apologised and will correct this.
- KH advised that there has been a very positive initial response to the MFCG Facebook page. KH added a direct link to the club 'join us' page and already new members have joined this way.
- KH said that the website has been updated and again, the 'join us' has proved beneficial with ten new members joining through this.
- KH asked LP's opinion of the First Aid course held with St. John Ambulance. LP felt that the trainer had not covered enough topics related to our needs. DL and JV agreed.
- KH said the two groups that had asked for our help with walks in 2022 are now booking through Events IoM as they have had difficulty finding accommodation as several hotels have not re-opened since Covid.

4. Correspondence:

- KH has received a reply from Lily Publications asking for a meeting with himself and JV. KH will arrange this. DL advised that Lily are about to publish two new walking books.

ACTION: KH to arrange a meeting with Miles Cowsill.

- LP said that a David Jenkinson has asked if he could lead the group walks to help him gain an NVQ qualification in Leadership Skills. As Mr. Jenkinson is not a member and we require fully paid members to walk with the group for several months before leading, this was explained in writing to him and we have not heard any further communication from Mr Jenkinson.
- LP has received a very complimentary letter from a lady who was here on holiday during the summer. Vanda Murray and Di Turner had met this lady whilst walking and were so nice to her that she wanted to write to say thank you to them both for making her so welcome. They had invited her to walk with the group when next on the Island.
- LP advised that the Carol Service at St. Luke's is booked for 12th December. KH will lead the walk.

ACTION: LP to contact John Kneale regarding the order of service sheets closer to the event.

- LP has received confirmation for all of the Winter Talks i.e.

Wednesday 10th November – '19c Circus on the Iom' with Sue King.

Wednesday 12th January – 'The Life of Bryan' with Nikky Bryan of Bryan Removals

Wednesday 9th February – An illustrated Talk on the Ayres Bird Sanctuary with Neil Morris of Manx Birdlife.

All talks will start at 7pm at Mylchreest Court, Peel

- LP has received a request from a Ramsey group called KIT 'Keeping in Touch' for us to do a talk for them on the History of the MFCG in either July, August or September 2022. DL volunteered to do the talk. JV suggested a slide show created by Tony Archibald and presented by DL.

ACTION: LP to confirm talk with K.I.T

5. Treasurer's Report: Jack Verity 24.09.21

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|---------------------|-----------|
| Current A/c balance | £2152.35 |
| Savings A/c balance | £14425.45 |

Since our last meeting significant expenditure has included:-

St John's Ambulance training fees £300

| | |
|----------------------|--------|
| Website update fees. | £87.50 |
|----------------------|--------|

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Gill Smith

As at 23/9/21 the Group has **247 members**. This includes 6 new members in August, and 8 new members (so far) in September.

The 'Join Us' section on the MFCG website went 'live' in the middle of August and 10 of the above members have applied for membership by this online method. I think it is proving much easier for people to join than having to contact me personally and asking for an application form, so hopefully it will continue to generate a lot more members.

At this time, I am still unable to access the MFCG bank account to ensure payment has been made by the various applicants. I am trusting that payment is made as soon as each applicant receives the email containing the MFCG bank account details, in response to their application submission, and am welcoming them to the group regardless! When Jack gets the October statement he will let me know of any membership receipts in September. Hopefully we will have online banking access by the end of the year!

The Membership list has been updated in response to our discussions at the July Committee Meeting, and replies that I received following the mailing exercise that I undertook at the beginning of August. I received replies to approximately 50% of the letters/emails that I sent, and as a result 2 people requested me to remove them from the membership list, I received 3 email addresses that were not previously listed, and have membership forms for 3 people for whom nothing was previously held. There are still **6 members** for whom **no membership forms are held**, and **19 members** for whom we have **no email address**.

LP expressed our thanks to GS for continuing her Membership Secretary's 'duties' whilst on holiday. All agreed.

7. Data Protection: Gill Smith

To my knowledge there have been no breaches.

8. Footpath Officer's Report: David Leiserach

Long term closures remain the same between 24.07.21 and 16.09.21 there are 24 defects of which 23 went to Dol and 1 to DEFA. DL advised that there is a new highways/PRoW officer, Ffinlo Williams.

ACTION: DL to arrange a meeting with Mr. Williams

- KH asked if there is an update on the 'Scout Glen'. DL replied that the closure is in force until the end of October but this could well be extended.
- KH said that Ballure Reservoir footpath should have been finished today, 24.09.21, but has not yet been started.
- DL advised that the Glen at Glen Maye is due to re-open in 3 weeks' time. Work is being done on the bridge and steps leading to the waterfall.

9. Safety Officer's Report: Pat Mudie

- **Risk Assessments:** PM stated that most Risk Assessments are arriving on time but she has had to remind a couple of members that these are necessary. KH will reiterate the importance of Risk Assessments in his Chairperson's newsletter.
- **Incident Reports:** There have been no incidents.

10. Amendments to Constitution:

KH said that DL and LP had given suggestion for amendments and updates to the constitution. KH suggested that once the changes have been agreed by the committee we should present it either en bloc at an EGM or with smaller amendments introduced as a resolution at the AGM to the membership for their approval. PG felt that we should concentrate on the amendments of a more substantive nature i.e. the approval of financial accounts and the appointment of an independent financial examiner. PM prefers to present this at the AGM rather than an EGM as she feels not enough members would attend. After in-depth discussion of each item on the constitution the proposed changes were agreed and will be sent out to the membership with the AGM Notices to be ratified at the AGM in March 2022. PM and PG asked for it to be sent to members detailing each amendment and the reasons for the changes.

ACTION: KH to update the wording of the Constitution as agreed and present it to the committee at the next meeting.

11. Extraordinary General Meeting:

It was agreed that it is not necessary to hold an EGM to vote on the amendments to the Constitution. This will be done at the AGM.

12. Date for AGM:

LP suggested the 10th or 24th March. It was agreed to approach Peel Golf Club for the venue.

ACTION: LP to arrange date with Peel Golf Club.

13. Annual Lunch:

KH suggested the Talk of the Town restaurant in Nobles Park as we had cancelled last year due to Covid or possibly the Palace if unable to book Nobles Park. All agreed. Sunday 16th January 2022 was agreed for the date.

ACTION: KH to book restaurant.

14. Suggestions to encourage new members:

- KH suggested investigation of the idea of short 'interest walks' at the weekend (possibly 2 per month) of approx. 2-3 hours to encourage a succession of new membership, maybe dog friendly or family oriented and with a slight experience value. These would be in addition to the regular Sunday walk.

Debbie Broom has offered to put on separate, longer walks on Saturdays and Sundays starting earlier. After in-depth discussion it was agreed that we do not want to split the Saturday group, which has a successful and well-established core of walkers. LP said that we should include Debbie's longer Sunday walks into the schedule as this will not interfere with any others walks. This was agreed by the majority of the committee.

ACTION: KH to write to Debbie Broom

- JV suggested 'Special Interest' walks.

LP also suggested 'Special Interest' walks e.g. A walk to include a visit to the Ayres Bird Sanctuary, or a walk to include the Old House of Keys, a 'Wallaby' walk, Tholtans walk, Walks from the train/tram etc. LP said that the Calf Trip organised by KH was a great success and will be repeated in 2022. LP also suggested challenges such as 'Barrule to Barrule', the Raad ny Foillan, Millenium Way etc.. An afternoon tea following a walk in the summer. None of these walks are new to the group, we have been doing them for many years but how we present them on the website and social media will attract the attention of potential new members. We need to give tempting descriptions of special walks.

15. Any other business:

- PC congratulated Tony Archibald on filling the Thursday walk schedule ahead of time. The Sunday and Tuesday schedules are not yet completed. Several leaders have booked dates on the Saturday schedule, the remaining will be ad hoc. Apart from the upcoming HOD walks for MNH, there are no further collaborative walks planned for the winter schedule.
- PG advised the committee that permission has been sought to re-route a PROW in Earystane. DL said that we have already put in an objection on behalf of the club on the grounds of procedure. This work was done before planning approval was gained. If this is allowed to remain in place it could set a precedent.
- DL asked if our insurer's require us to carry First Aid Kits on all walks and wonders where all of the club F.A. kits have gone. LP said that when she requested them to be returned for checking some time ago, only four of the eight kits were returned. JV said that many of our members carry their own kit but we need to know who has the others. JV suggested that we ask who is carrying a kit before the start of each walk. DL felt this could cause problems if there was not a kit available. KH and JV agreed that with the First Aid Courses offered to the members and the likelihood of several of our members also having personal First Aid Kits that this is within our obligations to satisfy our insurers.

ACTION: LP TO contact co-ordinators and ask them to find out who has club first aid kits.

- LP brought the forms for GS (in her absence) to become a signatory for the group's bank account. They need to be signed by all other signatories. This has now been done.

- KH informed the committee that he will organise walking holidays in Northumberland in 2022 to replace the cancelled trip for the 50th Anniversary year. With Covid in mind there will only be twelve places available on each date. The price will include: door to door transport, all travel in a minibus, B & B accommodation plus five walks during the week. Maybe individual groups, i.e. Saturday group, Sunday group etc., will fill each trip. KH to investigate the possibility of two different departures with a selection of longer walks for Saturday/Tuesday walkers and a departure with selection of shorter walks for Sunday/Thursday walkers.

ACTION: KH to include the details of Group Walking Holidays in Winter Newsletter.

- KH advised that Trig points are now being adopted by various walking groups in the UK. Should MFCG do this too on Island and have a plaque on it? PG and PM said that this was done some years ago for the Trig on Corrin's Hill. LP asked how many trig points are there on the IoM. It was agreed that there are at least seven. The committee thought this was a good idea.

ACTION: KH to make enquiries.

- LP asked if KH would be able to do Navigation courses for members. KH has spoken with Andrew Foxon and both are happy to do this through their relevant walking businesses. This would have to be paid for but at a group discount for twelve members. For accreditation, it should be done through AF but KH would provide for a refresher course of four/five hours at a cost approx.. £30pp.

ACTION: Committee members to canvas members on walks to see who would be interested.

16. Date and Time of Next Meeting:

Monday November 8th November 2021 at 2pm.

17. Meeting Closed at 4.45pm