



## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING AT MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL 2pm MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022

**Those present:** Alistair Lothian – AL, Paul de Weerd – PdW, David Leiserach – DL,  
Peter Gunn – PG, Peter Corkish – PC, Lesley Parkington – LP.

Absent: Jack Verity

1. LP welcomed the two new committee members, Alistair Lothian our new Chairman and Paul de Weerd our new Safety Officer to the meeting and said that she is sure we will all work well together.
2. **Apologies:** Gill Smith
3. **To Appoint new Chairman:**  
Alistair Lothian was appointed Chairman at the AGM 24<sup>th</sup> March.
4. **To Appoint new Safety Officer:**  
Paul de Weerd was appointed Safety Officer at the AGM 24<sup>th</sup> March
5. **Minutes from the previous meeting:** having been circulated beforehand, were approved and signed by the Secretary, Lesley Parkington.
6. **Matters Arising from previous meeting:**
  - AL asked if places on the two club holidays being organised by Ken Harding are now filled. LP replied that the short walks holidays has been cancelled due to lack of support and the long walks holiday has two spare places remaining.
  - P.C. asked if long and short walks could be included together on the holiday. LP replied that there is the opportunity to pull out of the walks and return to the hotel by public transport if necessary.
  - AL asked about progress with sponsorship of 'Adopting a Trig' point on Peel Hill. KH has written to DEFA regarding this but as yet has not received a reply. LP will chase it up.
  - AL asked for information re: walks to include traditional ceremonies e.g. laying rushes on the top of South Barrule and the Memorial Service for the wartime aircraft victims on North Barrule. LP has not yet found the relevant information but will do so.
  - AL asked if the Navigation refresher Course had taken place on 7<sup>th</sup> March. PC replied that it went well but was very cold and windy. LP said that we are extremely grateful to Ken Harding and Andrew Foxon for providing the course at such a low cost.

LP said that she is disappointed that members do not take advantage of things such as the Navigation Course, and the First Aid Course (which was free) that the club organises.

- AL said that previously KH had suggested applying for Lottery Funds. LP replied that due a lack of interest in some projects we should ask for names of those who might like to take advantage of e.g. Navigation Courses etc. before applying for funds. LP explained we would have to explain precisely what the funds were to be used for and that if granted, Lottery funds which are not used would have to be repaid.  
DL suggested that in his first Chairman's newsletter AL should ask members if they are interested in a Navigation Course etc..  
PC suggested applying for Lottery Funding to create new walking books. He also suggested very short walks for the elderly followed by tea & Cake. LP said that she would be concerned about taking responsibility for people who have difficulty walking and at present Age Concern provide this service.  
PdW suggested we apply for funds to widen the demographic of the group, i.e. younger people, different ethnic groups.  
PC also suggested that we could donate funds to Footpath Friends for footpaths maintenance.
- AL asked if there had been a response to our submission to the Select Committee of Tynwald on Footpaths, Bridleways and Greenlanes. DL replied that he had given verbal evidence to the committee. It was revealed that DoI have had their budget reduced by 90% over the past 10 years and this makes it difficult to fund the work. The select committee will report the findings back to Tynwald in May with regard to a separate department to deal solely with PRow's, bridleways and Greenlanes. AL feels that the government don't see PRow maintenance as a priority in attracting visitors to the Island.
- AL asked about the Treasurer's Report for y/e 31.12.21 which stated an outstanding payment of approx. £100 from Lily Publications for MFCG walking Book royalties. LP replied that the royalties for the six months up to 31.12.21 were actually £480.76 and have been paid.
- AL asked if anyone had complained about the Data Protection breach on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021 when an email had been sent to 95 members showing all email addresses. A member had alerted the membership Secretary to the breach and she apologised profusely for the error. No further action needed to be taken.
- AL asked LP about what has been done about free membership for children under 16. After some discussion it was decided to ask JV to contact our insurers for their advice.

**ACTION:** LP to contact DEFA re: Trig Point on Peel Hill.

**ACTION:** LP to research relevant information re: ceremonies.

**ACTION:** LP to contact Lottery Trust for details.

**ACTION:** JV to contact Insurers for advice re: under 16's.

## 7. Correspondence:

- LP referred to the invitation to attend the Select Committee on PRow's which has been discussed in item 6.
- LP read out a letter from Sight Matters IoM thanking us for the donation of £100 from the 'President's Charity'. This came from the members at the Annual Lunch and was generously made up to £100 by Brian Beattie.

- LP advised of a letter from Mental Health Awareness Week (May 9<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022), which this year is focusing on loneliness, asking if they can promote our walk on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> to people who might wish to join us. The walk starts from Maughold but the committee felt that this might not be suitable for inexperienced walkers so we should offer an alternative walk on 8<sup>th</sup> May which starts at Crosby Playing Fields which has easier access.

**ACTION:** LP to contact Isle Listen IoM to offer an alternative walk.

- Lily Publications. LP referred to a recent meeting between Miles Cowshill of Lily Publications and KH and JV regarding the updating and reprinting of our walking books. We are still awaiting details of cost etc. from Lily. LP felt that we may need a separate meeting to discuss this as it will require a lot of work from dedicated and reliable members to do this project. LP and DL felt it would be a shame to lose the books. AL suggested starting from scratch and using walks taken from GPS or use Outdoor Active. DL felt that routes should be walkable with a only guidebook and without GPS or map. This would require better signage. Many visitors to the Island only want a simple guide book. DL said that we should take this forward and should contact Lily Publications for more details. LP said that we need a small group of dedicated members to carry out this task all using the same format. PdW suggested putting walks out in a similar format to the Warden's Walks and we should think in more details as to how best to serve the market. He will contact print firms for cost of printing. LP said that we are need further information from Lily Publications before proceeding. DL felt that we should apply pressure to DoE to get the mapping dept to provide maps to us at a much lower cost as we are supporting the Island. AL suggested that whatever format we decide on should be linked to technology. All agreed that we should proceed with updating the books subject to market research and discussions with Lily Publications concluding the risk reward is positive.

**ACTION:** AL to contact Lily Publications for further details.

- Sew on MFCG Badges are now running low. The majority of the committee agreed to order 300 badges at a cost of £171 ex. Vat.

#### 8. **Treasurer's Report:** Jack Verity

Current account balance    £4883.24

Savings account balance.   £14425.94

Major income

Lily Publications. £480.76

Major expenditure

Insurance.                    £285.57

AGM buffet etc. £200.00

Subscriptions keep rolling in with minor expenses outgoing.

#### 9. **Membership Secretary's Report:** Gill Smith

At the end of 2021, the Group's membership totalled 272 members, 20 of whom joined in the final 3 months of the year. Already in 2022 there have been 18 new members, so the Group continues to attract walkers across the island. Membership as at 24<sup>th</sup> March 2022 stands at 261, after removing all those from whom no annual subscription has been received for 2022.

After lengthy discussion on whether to limit membership to those people with email addresses it was agreed to remain with the status quo but encourage all new members to receive data electronically.

**10. Data Protection Report:** Gill Smith

There have been no data protection breaches since the last committee meeting in January 2022

**11. Footpaths Officer's Report:** David Leiserach

DL's report: please see report produced for the AGM 24.03.22

**12. Safety Officer's Report:**

There have been no issues in this period. PdW will provide a full report at the next committee meeting.

**13. Lily Publications:** This item was previously discussed in correspondence.

**14. Walks Schedules:** Peter Corkill

PC advised that the Sunday schedule is still outstanding and just one or two walks on other schedules need finalising. PC asked if we should include walk leader's telephone numbers. It was felt that it is an advantage to include them if members need information about the walks. PC will ask walk co-ordinators to contact leaders for permission to include their details. PC advised the committee that Tony Archibald, the Thursday walks co-ordinator may wish to step away from this role and if so there will be a vacancy for this position. It was agreed that walk start times should be at discretion of the leader.

**15. Manx Wildlife Week:**

LP said that previously there have been two walks for this event, a long walk on Saturday, a short walk on Thursday. For this year there will only be one on Thursday as it is difficult to find wildlife for the long walk in the hills.

**16. Heritage Open Days:**

LP has contacted MNH asking if the event is going ahead this year and has received no reply so at this time we will not be officially taking part in HoD this year.

**17. Matters Arising from AGM 24.03.22**

PC referred to the question at the AGM regarding how to spend our funds. DL said that we should not pay DEFA or DoI to do general maintenance but he would support projects which would improve PROWs etc.. The new government footpaths officer, Ffinlo Williams, is very progressive and will be good to work with. The Santon Gorge is one area that needs steps. LP suggested a small bridge at the Rhenass Ford, Brian Beattie has suggested putting a bridge across the Lhen trench at Cronk y Bing as it is part of the Raad ny Foillan and is impassable during high tide. AL asked what is the procedure for setting this in motion. In his capacity of Footpath's Officer, DL should contact the relevant dept. for advice.

**ACTION:** DL to contact relevant dept. to discuss a possible project.

**18. AOB:**

LP read out a letter from Ken Harding.

"Please can you pass on my personal thanks to all the Committee members of MFCG for all the help, support and enthusiasm over my time on the committee.

Looking back on the last 3 years, collectively implemented a number of positive initiatives which have really given the group a solid foundation for many years to come and raised the profile of the group on the Island.

I have made errors and mistakes along the way but overall I think it's been an opportunity for myself to work with like minded and passionate individuals who all have the common goal of making MFCG a successful and worthwhile organisation on the Island for the benefit of the members and overall enjoyment of group walking on our beautiful island.

I wish both Alistair and Paul well in their new roles within the committee and I am sure they will fit in well with all the other committee members, bringing new and fresh ideas and enthusiasm for the group, alongside the excellent team work for the existing committee members.

Good luck over the next few years and as promised I will always help out whenever asked and thank you so much for the wine, a lovely surprise and kind gesture.

Ken 😊 “

PC asked that AL now be put on the Bank signatories list and KH be removed. LP will contact IoM Bank. There are four signatories, Jack Verity, Lesley Parkington, Peter Gunn and the Chairman, with two signatures required on cheques.

LP asked the committee for ideas for our Special Interest Winter Talks for 2022-23.

LP asked those on the committee if anyone would like to take on the role of Website administrator. All declined and are more than happy for Fiona Vaz to carry on in the position.

DL suggested that AL be shown how to input items onto the website. AL will contact KH for instruction.

19. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022. 2pm at Mylchreest Court, Peel.

20. Meeting Closed: 4.15pm.

ALISTAIR LOTHIAN

CHAIRMAN

