

MANX FOOTPATHS Conservation GROUP



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING AT MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL 2pm MONDAY 11th JULY 2022

Those Present: Alistair Lothian – AL, David Leiserach – DL, Peter Gunn – PG, Gill Smith – GS, Lesley Parkington

1. **Apologies:** Peter Corkish, Jack Verity, Paul de Weerd
 2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** having been circulated beforehand, were approved and signed by the Chairman, Alistair Lothian.
 3. **Matters arising from the previous meeting:**
 - AL suggested that idea of walks coinciding with traditional Manx ceremonies (e.g. Hunt the Wren, Rushes to South Barrule etc.) should be regularly shown on the agenda so that it is not forgotten. These events need to be decided in time for the winter Schedule. All agreed.
- ACTION:** LP to include this on each agenda.
- AL said that several matters arising are awaiting a reply from Callum Staley, our web designer. AL will ask for a meeting with Callum once the busy holiday period is over. Once a meeting is arranged AL will invite committee members to attend.
 - DL asked for confirmation from Callum which format the schedules should be presented in as there was previously a 'glitch' with the website due to the schedule not conforming to the website requirements.

ACTION: AL to arrange meeting with Callum Staley.

- Winter Talks:
AL has so far been unable to contact Andrian Cowin from the Met Office to give a talk on weather forecasting but will keep trying. He has arranged for John Shakespeare and the Pipe Major of the Pipe Band to give a talk preferably in February 2022, date to be confirmed.
- LP will contact Charles Guard and Nigel Wood of Odins Raven fame to check their availability.

ACTION: LP to contact the above re: talks.

- Lily Publications.

4. Correspondence: Lesley Parkington

- Neil Roberts of Manx Birdlife has written thanking MFCG for the generous donation of £100 for the three visits to the Ayres Wildlife Reserve. All of those who attended thoroughly enjoyed it and it was agreed this was money well spent.
- Rob Clines of the Manx mapping dept., is looking into their archives for further information as to the ownership of Trig points around the island with regards to MFCG 'adopting' one.
- Helen Ashcroft of MNH Heritage Open Days has now sent out 'taking part' forms for 2022. Jack Verity has very kindly offered to put on a talk/walk on Tynwald Hill and the Royal Chapel, cancelled in 2021 due to Covid. Brian Beattie has agreed to do an event but as yet he has not replied to LP with details. It was decided to let MNH organise the ticketing with Eventbrite.
- MFCG member Aurora Bakkevig informed the committee that walk 9 in one of the walking books is incorrect as this path is blocked by the landowner. AL explained to her that this is a known problem which cannot be solved at this time.

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

10.07.22

Current a/c balance: £4872.80
Savings a/c balance: £14,427.89

The increase from the last meeting is due to increased membership, £240 of which is from Henley & Goring Walking Group for temporary memberships.

The only significant expenditure was a £100 donation to the Wildlife Trust as a thank you for their time in taking three groups around the bird sanctuary at the Point of Ayre.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Gill Smith

Membership stands at 310 which includes 24 from Henley & Goring. This leaves 286 regular members. New members so far this year total 66. GS has now identified an unknown member from bank statements. Henley & Goring Ramblers have all now submitted membership forms. GS advised the committee that prospective members are having problems paying their subs into our account online. This is a problem caused by new security measures at the IoM online banking. The bank suggested that the problem will sort itself out over coming months.

ACTION: LP to chase IoM Bank to finalise GS as signatory.

7. Date Protection Report: Gill Smith

There have been no breaches since the last meeting.

8. Footpaths Officer's Report: David Leiserach

At the last meeting of CAG (Countryside Access Group) the Government's footpaths officer stated that he has resigned from that position. Between May and July 2022 15 defects have been reported to Dol. There are 4 footpaths due shortly for remedial work, Riverbank to Whitebridge, Ramsey, Niarbyl to White Beach, Conrhennee Road to Honey Hill and Little Conrhennee Road to Honey Hill via Emmemona Plantation.

9. Safety Officer's Report: read by LP in PdW'S absence.

In May we received all but three risk assessments on time and only one is still outstanding.
In June we received all the risk assessments.

There were two incidents reported in respect of May walks, one of which was significant enough to report to the insurer. Happily the walker seems to be OK.

I have tried inputting reports on behalf of the leaders who do not find it easy to use the interface. One member

A member rang me and I input it for her. If anyone else who is not keen on using the online route would like to ring me on 660393, I'd be happy to do the same. In fact I have recorded a couple of paper-based assessments this way too, as it helps keep the record in one place (with a note that I did the inputting).

GS asked if, when we reported the incident to the Insurers, did we actually make a claim. AL replied no, we just have to make them aware of it and they will keep it on file.

10. Lily Publications: Alistair Lothian

As our contract with Lily Publications is coming to an end it has been decided that we have no option but to agree to Mr. Cowhill's terms regarding the remaining stocks of books. Lily will sell them through and we will receive 7% of the royalties instead of the previous 20%. The group will now have to decide how to go forward i.e. find an alternative publisher, move over to online maps or both. PG showed the Triskellion Way book by Andrew Foxon and Phil Craine which they have had published themselves. To publish our own books will entail a great deal of work for a long period of time but some of the committee felt it will be a huge loss to the club. A very lengthy and in depth discussion followed and eventually it was agreed that the committee should all list the points they consider important to make a decision on this and bring our recommendations to the AGM in March. GS suggested setting up a sub-committee as this subject will take up too much time in committee meetings. At the moment the sub committee will be confined to those committee members who wish to be involved.

ACTION: LP to contact Andrew Foxon for information re publishing our own books.

Date and time of Sub-Committee meeting:

2pm Monday 15th August 2pm at Mylchreest Court.

Date & Time of next committee meeting:

2pm. Monday 26th September at Mylchreest Court.

Meeting Closed at 3.45pm

ALISTAIR LOTHIAN

CHAIRMAN