



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING at MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL 2.30pm Monday 22th May 2023

Those present: Alistair Lothian – AL, Angela Weston – AW, Peter Corkish – PC, Peter Gunn – PG
David Leiserach – DL, Paul de Weerd - PwD, Geoff Clague – GC, Lesley Parkington – LP

1. **Apologies:** Gill Smith, Paul Castle.
2. **Minutes of the previous meeting:** having been circulated beforehand were approved by the committee and signed by Alistair Lothian, Chairman.

3. Matter Arising from the previous meeting:

- AL asked if Ken Harding had been in touch regarding attending a committee meeting. LP replied that he had not.
- AL informed the committee that he and PC have now affixed the loose arm and oiled the 'Happy Hikers' carving. DL said that it is looking much better now. AL asked GC to organise having the name plates redone.

ACTION: GC to arrange renewal of lettering on name plates.

- AL asked if any members had put forward ideas for 'days out' for members. None had. LP has emailed Dr. John Taylor regarding a visit to his famous clock collection but, for the second time, has received no reply. AL will contact Dr. Taylor once again. AL said this is an excellent visit.

ACTION: AL to write to Dr. Taylor requesting a visit.

- Dr. Taylor is busy on a project with hydrogen cars. LP was contacted by an employee of Dr. Taylor who is keen for us to have a tour of the unit when it is finished.
- DL suggested Crogga Railway.
- PC suggested a picnic lunch at Knockaloe Beg Farm.
- PdW suggested the Pie n Mash train.
- PC – suggested a tour/walk of local mines.
- GC suggested a meal on Snaefell.
- AW suggested longer walks such as Barrule to Barrule. AL has the route which can be done over two days at approx. 13 miles each day. AW suggested the second Saturday in the month.

ACTION: AL to liaise with Ray Beattie to finalise the route and car share points.

- Footpath Defects: AL felt that we should only report more serious defects as DoI and DEFA may become inundated. DL disagreed and LP felt that it is not our problem and government departments must manage their own maintenance schedules.
- Banking: AW updated the committee. Progress is very slow with IoM bank so we will pursue our plan to change banks to Lloyds. It was agreed that all prospective signatories should attend the bank together to certify paperwork.
- Annual Walk: AL felt the day had been successful despite the low turnout. A total of 18 members joined together at Mylchreest Court for excellent tea and cakes provided by Jane Lothian and PC. The committee asked for a letter of thanks and flowers to be sent to Jane as a thank you for all her hard work.

ACTION: LP to thank Jane in writing and order flowers

PC advised the committee that six members had climbed over the back hedge of Mylchreest Court and walked across the gardens. As a result LP was confronted by the warden who made an official complaint. This reflects badly on the club and LP personally.

ACTION: LP to write a letter of apology to Mylchreest Court.

- Ramblers Grant: LP feels that we should continue to look for project to make use of this.

4. Correspondence:

- LP read out an email from Ken Harding thanking the committee for their hard work.
- An email has been received from a new member thanking DL for looking after him and his uncle and the whole group for making them feel so welcome.
- LP read out a request to visit to Dr. Taylor's clock collection for the club.
- AL read out an email from the Library in Douglas requesting someone to give them a talk of approx.. 30 mins. DL offered to do the talk.

ACTION: DL to contact library and arrange the talk

- AL gave the committee details of correspondence from a club member who has written to DoI and DEFA with his thoughts on the two departments not accepting help from the club.

ACTION: AL to forward copies to all committee members.

5. Treasurer's Report: Angela Weston

AW informed the committee that subs remain stable. The club has received £100 from Ramblers Travel company. We assume that this is in respect of club members holidaying with Ramblers. AW will chase Ramblers for an explanation.

AW asked if there is an MFCG email address for the treasurer. LP replied that only the Chairman, secretary, Footpaths Officer and Safety Officer has club emails.

6. Membership Secretary's Report: Gill Smith

There were 225 renewals of membership from 2022 to 2023.
New membership applications for 2023 so far (as at 22/05/23) currently total 25, bringing our total membership to 250.

7. Data Protection Report: Gill Smith

There have been no data breaches, to my knowledge.

8. **Safety Officer's Report:** Paul de Weerd

- **Risk Assessment:** Only one Risk Assessment has been missed since the previous meeting. PdW feels that the rate of compliance is outstanding on behalf of the membership.
- **Incident Report:** No incidents have taken place since the last meeting.

(AL advised that he has recently forwarded an incident report in respect of a fall by a member which resulted in cuts to his face).

9. **Footpaths Officer's Report:** Footpath Closures: David Leiserach

PRoW 159 Baldhoon to Laxey – extended closure

Prow 268 Ballahick farm lane closed until August 2023

Prow 352 Arbory Road to CRHA grounds closed until 31.5.23

PRoW 417 Baldhoon to Laxey Glen including bridge across Laxey River closed until 03.11.23

Prow 423 'Scout Glen' from Athol Bridge to Grenaby closed until 20.06.23 (may be extended)

PRoW 512 Maughold to Port Mooar closed until 01.09.23 (may be extended)

PRoW 615 Foxdale from where there used to be a railway bridge over the A3 to Ballanass Road closed until 28.07.23

10. **First Aid Packs:** After much discussion it was decided to purchase 10 new, smaller, first aid kits for use by members.

ACTION: LP to purchase small First Aid kits from Millets @ £12 per kit.

11. **Winter Talks:** Dates for talks: November 15th 2023, January 24th 2024 and February 21st 2024.

Various suggestions for talks were made, e.g. Peter Geddes – mines, Charles Guard – various, Howard Parkin – observatory, Manx Whale & Dolphin watch, Bee keepers, Shipwrecks.

ACTION: GC to arrange a talk on shipwrecks.

ACTION: LP to contact Howard Parkin of Manx observatory, Charles Guard and/Peter Geddes.

12. **AOB:**

- A discussion was had on what to spend club funds on as this had been raised at the AGM. It was decided to email the members asking for suggestions to be forward by 30th June.

ACTION: LP to email members.

- PdW suggested a project to find ways to join up PRoWs using private land. DL advised that a legal route already exists for reclaiming lost footpaths and that DEFA/DOI do not want specified routes over public ramblage, or private land such as North Barrule summit as this causes erosion. AL suggested that a sub committee should be formed discuss this further. AL, PdW, GC and DL agreed to be on the sub committee.
- AL suggested reviewing the idea of putting routes onto the website for the use of all members.

13. **Date & time of next meeting:** 2pm Monday 17th July 2023

14. Meeting Closed at 4.15pm

ALISTAIR LOTHIAN

CHAIRMAN