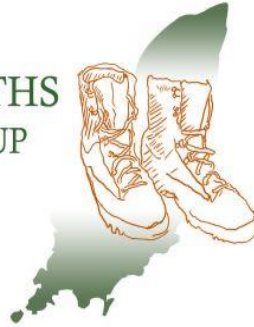


MANX FOOTPATHS Conservation GROUP

Affiliated to The Ramblers



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING at MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL

2pm Monday 2nd October 2023

Those present: Alistair Lothian – AL, Peter Gunn – PG, Peter Corkish – PC, Geoff Clague – GC, Lesley Parkington – LP, Paul Castle – PAC.

1. **Apologies:** Angela Weston, Gill Smith, Paul de Weerd, David Leiserach.
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** having been circulated beforehand were approved by the committee and signed by Alistair Lothian, Chairman.
3. **Matters arising from previous meeting:**
 - DL suggested that before meeting with Ffinlo Williams of DEFA regarding MFCG doing maintenance work on footpaths, AL and PAC should liaise with himself. It had been previously decided that under the conditions applied by Mr. Williams it will be too complicated for MFCG to participate. The best way forward is to carry on reporting footpaths defects as we are at present.
 - DL asked that footpaths defects being reported are prioritised according to urgency. PAC is already doing this and including any additional information that Mr. Williams requested.
4. **Correspondence:** Lesley Parkington
 - LP had received a phone call from Helen Ashcroft of MNH Heritage Open Days asking why we hadn't submitted an event for 2023. LP informed Ms Ashcroft that the committee has decided against taking part. Ms Ashcroft expressed disappointment, saying that they valued MFCG input and asked us to reconsider for 2024 when they will be happy to give advice.
 - Ramblers Association have advised that the fee for affiliation has increased to £73. 50 which will be taken from the MFCG account by direct debit.
 - Our Website administrator, Fiona Vaz, has given formal notice that she would like to step down from the post on 1st December or sooner if possible.
 - Gill Smith has also notified the committee that due to personal circumstances she will be leaving the Island on 11th November and would like to have a new membership secretary in place before she leaves. Two members have shown interest in the post and GS will contact them to explain the position.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Read by LP in AW's absence.

Bank Update – IOM Bank The banking mandate forms were completed and submitted to the branch for processing on the 21/4/23. The given time for processing was 20 weeks. I have chased a couple of times with the business banking team but they struggled to find the forms, went away to investigate further and I never heard back. I have been back to the originating branch last week and the latest update is that our forms are being processed but the latest timescale is now 12 months as they have over 1200 applications to process! We have requested a call back from business banking to give us an indication of when the change to signatories will be complete. I will endeavour to keep chasing.

Lloyds bank account application – As agreed by the committee given the timing issue with IOM Bank we would pursue opening new account with Lloyds. All forms were completed and verified in June 2023. I have received communication from the business banking team requiring more certified documents which were sent in on 08/09/23. I have requested a timescale for completion but once again vague. The current timeframe is 12 weeks turnaround. I will keep chasing!

As we are approaching the end of the financial year I will need to download the necessary information from the bank account. If I can arrange to meet with Lesley on my return to access this information it will aid in speeding up the process of pulling the accounts together.

With regards to income/expenditure thus far I can make the following comments

Opening Balance Jan 2023	£4,961.61	
Closing Balance as at July 2023	£6,133.04	
Movement	£1,171.43	
Income	£2,560.00	(Estimate not yet reconciled)
Main Expenditure		
Exp Claims	£ 414.73	
Internet	£ 241.25	
AGM	£ 255.00	
Insurance	£ 285.57	
Donations	£ 30.00	

I have yet to receive any statements from Jack for August onwards and I am also missing the Feb 2023 original statement.

Reserve account balance as at July 2023 is £14,628.17

6. **Membership Secretary's Report:** September 2023. Read by LP in GS absence.

Membership at 30 September stands at 260 people, with 30 new members joining so far during 2023. Any new members joining from October to December will count as 2024 joiners.

7. **Data Protection Report:** September 2023. Read by LP in GS absence.

There have been no data breaches since the last committee meeting, to my knowledge.

8. **Safety Officer's Report:** Read by LP in PdW's absence.

- Risk Assessment: Risk assessment completion levels remain high.
- Incident Report: Our one outstanding incident report (for a very minor injury) has now been closed by the insurer.

9. Footpaths Officer's Report: Paul Castle

74 footpaths defect have been reported so far this year. I am still getting incomplete information from some members. Without map reference, w3w: photographs if possible, road number if known defects cannot be forwarded the relevant department. I have noticed that several defects that I have reported have been fixed but they never tell me when this is done which is a shame as I cannot email them to say thanks.

Closure of PRoWs: David Leiserach

PRoW 159 Baldhoon Road to Laxey Glen closed until 14.07.24 – possible extension.

PRoW 168 Ballahick Road closed until 09.08. 24 – possible extension.

PRoW 307 Ballafesson closed until 31.03.24 – possible extension.

PRoW 417 Baldhoon to Laxey closed until 03.11.23 – possible extension.

PRoW 423 'Scout Glen' closed until 03.07.24 - possible extension.

PRoW 615 Foxdale 'railway bridge' steps closed until July 2024 – possible extension.

PRoW 638 – Clypse Reservoir closed until 31.01.24 – possible extension.

PRoW 512 from Maughold to Port Moor is now open but DoI have not officially confirmed this.

10. Progress on walks schedules: Peter Corkish

PC has emailed co-ordinators the dates still available on the schedules. Tuesdays require four more walks. AL & LP both offered to provide three walks each if necessary. Marg Campbell has done really well with Thursdays having just three vacant slots. Saturdays are ad hoc apart from the first of the month which are on the schedule. PG has ten vacant slots for the Sunday schedule. PC will be unavailable from 22nd October so schedules need to be finalised and checked before then. Unfortunately the schedule will have several 'TBA or Volunteers Needed or Leader Required' instead of assembly points.

AL suggested that that problem of getting leaders should be alleviated once our online routes are activated as members will have dozens of ready-made walks to choose from.

11. Hills Skills Course:

LP advised the committee the only four people have taken up the offer of a subsidised place on Adrew Foxon's Hills Skills Course, i.e. AL, GS, David Grimshaw and Paul Sheridan. LP suggested asking participants to pay £45 each into the MFCG account and the club will pay AF the full amount to keep it simple. All agreed.

12. Club walks on website: Alistair Lothian

- AL advised the committee that members will need to have the Outdooractive free app on their phones and by clicking on the link on the members page of the website can access our walks. Walks will be listed by distance and 'North, East, South and West'. Hopefully this will encourage new leaders who can start off by downloading a ready-made walk. AL said that members can find out how it works by viewing an online video.
- DL had expressed concern regarding 'Duty of Care'. The committee agreed that leaders would still be required to do a reccy and Risk Assessment so this should not be an issue as it is for members of MFCG only. Committee members will be happy to help with these requirements.
- AL will contact Callum Staley to make this live asap and will send out detailed instructions with the Autumn newsletter.
PG suggested asking Tony Archibald to contribute some of his walks.

13. New Year Lunch: Lesley Parkington

LP confirmed that the New Year Lunch is booked for 14th January in the Veranda Suite at the Talk of the Town, Nobles Park, Douglas and asked the committee to strongly encourage members and their friends and family to attend as numbers for club events have dropped significantly since Covid. The venue requires at least fifty people to ensure that we have the Veranda Suite. The food is excellent and there will be quizzes to occupy diners during courses. The cost will be £26 p.h. LP will provide a music quiz, GC offered a 'Where is it?' quiz. LP also asked the committee to encourage members to attend the Winter Talks as it is very embarrassing for us, and particularly the speaker, when only a few people turn up.

14. AOB:

- PC advised the committee that he will be standing down at the next AGM but if necessary will collate next summer's walks schedules. AL will inform members of the positions which are becoming in his Autumn Newsletter.
- A new member has offered to take on the role of Membership Secretary. GS will discuss the position with her before she leaves the island.
- PG reminded the committee about the Carol Service. LP confirmed that St. Lukes is booked for 10th December. AL will lead the walk from St. Lukes at 1.30pm. The carol service will commence at 3pm and will be followed by a 'bring and share tea'. LP asked committee members to actively encourage members to come along and friends and family are welcome. PG, AL and PAC volunteered to read the lessons. LP will contact others who may do so too.
- PG alerted the committee to the fact that a footpath in Eaystane will be the subject of a public enquiry. He feels that the MFCG should be involved as it pertains to a PRoW being changed into a Permissive path. If this is allowed to go ahead it could have serious repercussions for footpaths in future. PG suggested that DL might keep us informed of when this might happen as he has the contacts and knowledge of procedure.

15. Date and time of next meeting: Monday 27th November 2023

16. Meeting Closed 3.15pm

ALISTAIR LOTHIAN

CHAIRMAN