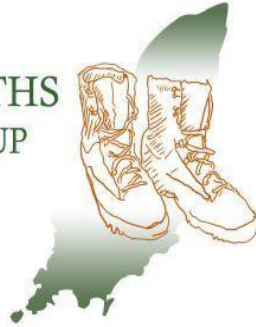


# MANX FOOTPATHS Conservation GROUP

*Affiliated to The Ramblers*



## MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING at MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL

2pm Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**Those Present:** Alistair Lothian – AL, Peter Gunn – PG, Peter Corkish – PC, Paul Castle – PAC, Paul de Weerd – PdW, Lesley Parkington – LP, David Leiserach – DL, Louise Whitelegg – LW.

New membership secretary, Louise Whitelegg was welcomed and introduced to the committee.

1. **Apologies:** Angela Weston, Geoff Clague.
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:**
  - AL stated that the Hills Skills course provided by Andrew Foxon had been very enjoyable and a lot had been learned by those attending.
  - AL informed the committee that there were 50 'live' walks on the members page of the website. AL has asked Callum Staley to amend the presentation of the walks to make it tidier. The cost for this will be £30 which the committee agreed to. These walks will be available to members via OutdoorActive to encourage new leaders as these will be 'ready-made' walks. AL has asked for volunteers from each day to track the walk and post it on the website. It was agreed that members require specific details of how to do this.
  - DL referred to comment made by PG at the previous meeting regarding changing a PRoW to a permissive path at Earystane. DL stated that a public enquiry is not necessary as the debate relates to the D51 road and not the footpath so this should not affect walkers. Eventually an official PRoW will be re-instated.
4. **Correspondence:** Lesley Parkington
  - First Aid Course: LP has received several 'Thank You' letters to the committee from those who participated saying that they had enjoyed the course as it was very informative.
  - Gill Smith sent a letter of thanks for the gift given to her on her departure from the Island.
  - LP advised the committee that the new bank account with Lloyds Bank is now active. LW will send out details of the new account to members on 1<sup>st</sup> December, with a reminder following in January.

5. **Treasurer’s Report – November 2023 – Angela Weston Firstly, apologies for my 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.*

**November update-** A further chase has been made and I have been informed that our banking mandate is being processed and should be a couple of weeks off completion. We have managed to change the address to get the statements to come directly to us instead of Jack’s address. Unfortunately, we are still reliant on Jack to sign cheques on our behalf until this is resolved.

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!

**November Update-** As communicated we have now had our application approved and we have been issued the new bank details. All signatories are in the process of applying for online banking. Louise has been given the necessary information to communicate to all of our members in enough time to amend the bank account details for 2024 subscriptions. Can we please confirm that the non-email members have had something in writing?

We do expect a crossover period but Louise and I will try to push this to ensure it doesn’t drag on too long.

Update on accounts is as follows

Opening Balance Jan 2023	£4,961.61
Closing Balance as at October 2023	£5,783.01
Movement	£821.40
Income	£2,700 (To be reconciled)

**Main Expenditure**

Internet	£ 361
AGM	£ 255
Insurance	£ 286
Training	£ 180
Health & Safety	£ 167
Donations	£ 60

Further costs to incur include £360 First Aid training course and £73.50 for affiliation costs to Ramblers. These costs will be recognised in November. As you can see from the current yearly movement in balance it is likely that we will be in a breakeven position for this year or potential deficit. We did however look to start using some of the reserves for the training courses etc and as you can see we are significantly down on subscription income when compared to previous years. In previous years we have also had the benefit of revenue being generated from book sales and donations. (2022 £439 & £539 respectively)

Can I please request that we ensure all our expenses that relate to 2023 are claimed for in the relevant period?

Reserve account balance as at October 2023 is £14,715.09

Many thanks, Angela

6. **Membership Secretary's Report:** Louise Whitelegg

LW is delighted to be able to contribute to the club and is looking forward to the year ahead.

7. LW advised the committee that the MFCG is not registered with the Information Commissioner in respect of GDPR. She has obtained the necessary forms and once completed will return them to the relevant department. The committee agreed to appoint Louise Whitelegg as Data Controller as of 27<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

8. Safety Officer's Report: 27.11.23 – Paul de Weerd

- Risk Assessment: The rate of completion of reports from reccies remains high. PdW has chased a couple of people who have missed a report. It is rare for anyone to miss out more than once.
- Incident Report: There have been no incidents since the last meeting.

9. Footpaths Officer's Report: 27. 11.23 – Paul Castle

I have now reported 85 issues to the Dept Infrastructure (with about another 6 pending from the weekend), up from 79 last month.

A couple of people have said they would like confirmation that the problem has been reported. I will endeavour to do that, including our own MFCG ref number.

Most people now include W3W or other good means of identifying the exact location of the problem which is much appreciated.

PRoW Closures: 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 – Clype Reservoir closed until 31.01.24 – possible extension.

10. Winter Talks:

LP said that despite technical difficulties i.e. no visuals, Harry Owens gave a very good talk, lots of questions were asked and everyone enjoyed the evening. It was disappointing and embarrassing that only 17 members came to the talk when we can easily accommodate 40-50. Since Covid numbers have fallen considerably. DL suggested that we should ask members at the AGM if they wish to continue with the talks. LP felt this is a committee decision. It was agreed not to arrange any talks for 2024 but revisit the decision in the future.

11. New Year Lunch: 1pm Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024

LP advised that she has received confirmation of the booking at Talk of the Town, Onchan Park, Douglas on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12.30pm for 1pm for a two course lunch costing £26.50 p.p. GC, LP, PAC have all volunteered to provide quizzes and the club will fund small prizes. LP feels that we will struggle to get numbers this year due to the cost-of-living crisis and asked committee members to promote the event when on walks. LP will send out a general email in early December with a reminder closer to the time.

12. Annual General Meeting: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 7pm.

LP has received confirmation of the booking at Fairways Restaurant, Golf Club, Peel for the AGM. Only sixteen members attended the 2023 AGM so, once again, we need to promote this to members nearer to the time. A decision regarding format of meeting and menu will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Carol Service: The Carol Service at St. Lukes on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December is also confirmed. Rev. Janice Ward will take the service and Jo Dudley will play the organ.

13. Any Other Business:

- AL asked if there is any progress with new plaques for the Happy Hikers carving. GC is arranging this but is on holiday at the moment.

**ACTION:** GC to update the committee on progress at the next meeting.

- A member of the club who has excellent computer skills has agreed to take over PC's role as walks schedule co-ordinator.
- Creating copies of the original MFCG walking books onto history page of the website: LP handed to DL original copies of the books provided by a member of the club for scanning with the proviso that the books are returned intact to the member concerned.
- LP stated that there are very few new members joining the group at the moment and asked for suggestions as to how to promote the group. LW suggested that we use our social events as 'meet and greet' events. She will also arrange an interview with our longest serving member and a new member with IoM newspapers or produce an article in time for the new year.

**ACTION:** LW to create an article promoting the club and contact IoM Newspapers.

**ACTION:** PG to provide LW with an old photograph of the group on a walk.

14. Date & Time of next meeting: 2pm Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January

15. Meeting closed: 3.30pm

ALISTAIR LOTHIAN

CHAIRMAN

