MANX FOOTPATHS Conservation GROUP

Affiliated to The Ramblers

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING AT MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL

MONDAY 15th July 2024

Those present : Alistair Lothian - AL, Geoff Clague – GC, Paul de Weerd – PdW, Peter Gunn – PG, David Leiserach – DL, Paul Castle – PAC, Lesley Parkington – LP

1. **Apologies:** Angela Weston, Louise Whitelegg
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:** Alistair Lothian
   - PG stated that there was still no progress regarding the article for the local press which he and LW are working on.
   - AL asked about the proposed Gaiety Tour and Supper on the train. PdW replied that this has not been progressed. LP suggested that as we have a full summer of extra events these can be saved for next year. All agreed.
   - Happy Hikers: AL stated that everything is now in place for the annual maintenance of the carving. Several people have volunteered to help on Thursday 18th July, weather permitting.
   - AL advised that he and LP had met with Ffinlo Williams on 14th May to discuss possible collaboration with DoI regarding projects that MFCG can be involved with. Several options were discussed e.g. MFCG do the work ourselves, MFCG contribute a portion of the cost of a larger project or MFCG pay for the full cost of a small project which will be carried out by government contractors. The committee agreed to propose to Mr. Williams that the MFCG pay up to £1000 for small projects such as stiles or gates etc.. Once a decision is made we can apply to Ramblers for a grant.
   - DL stated that he thinks we should not be paying towards "maintenance" but would be happy to see funding go towards "improvements"

   ACTION: AL & LP to meet with Mr. Williams to agree a project.

   - First Aid Renewals: LP has booked St. John Ambulance for Wednesday 4th September.

   ACTION: LP to send out reminder to previous participants end of July.

   - New Year Lunch: Talk of the Town, Douglas, Sunday 19th January 2025
4. **Correspondence:** Lesley Parkington
   - A member of the public wrote enquiring about the path up the Corony Valley being blocked by a gate and barbed wire. LP advised the lady that this short stretch is private land and had been gated for many years but that much of the land in this area is public ramblage.

- A letter was received from KPMG asking if MFCG would like to help with an environmental project, we declined.

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

   There hasn't been much movement for the last couple of months just a couple of subscriptions.
   See below for the balances

   Reserve £17,577
   Current £4,433

6. **Membership Secretary's Report:** Louise Whitelegg. No report in LW's absence

7. **Data Protection Report:** Louise Whitelegg. No report in LW's absence

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

   - Risk Assessment: We are receiving a good level of completion on the Risk Assessments.
   - There have been no incidents reported since the last committee meeting.

9. **Footpath's Officer's Report:** Paul Castle

   - Total footpaths defects reported to date this year are 153. It is encouraging to see that some repairs are being done e.g. new footpath signs. DoI appear to be more pro-active since Ffinlo Williams took over.
   - DL commented about the very much delayed implementation of the footpaths report by DoI.

10. **MFCG collaboration with DoI:** Discussed under matters arising.

11. Winter Talks:

   - Wednesday 13th November: An evening visit to the Aviation Museum, Castletown – Confirmed
   - Wednesday 22nd January: Bryan King – The Wreck of the Racehorse – GC to confirm
   - Wednesday 19th February: Queen's Pier Restoration Group – LP to confirm

   (*I have added actual dates as we did not decide – if you disagree, let me know).*

12. Any other business:

   - Pat Mudie, long term member and past Chairman: PdW and PG attended Pat's funeral as friends and representatives of the group. The funeral was very well attended with friends from our and other groups that Pat was involved with. Her sons gave very moving tributes. Our condolences go to David and the family.
   - PG suggested that we have a memorial to Pat such as a tree dedicated to her. He will speak to the family.
   - LP confirmed that St. Lukes Church is booked for 28th August for the final Wednesday walk and supper.

- Donations for events: LP suggested giving a donation to the Beekeepers Association and to Anton Cashen for the events they put on for us. They each gave their time freely for two sessions which were very enjoyable.
  The committee agreed to donate £100 to each group.

ACTION: AW to arrange donations for each event.

- DL stated that the group should not walk on roads or PRoW's that are closed by DoI as our insurance would be void should there be an incident or injury. He suggested that the Winter newsletter should include a reminder and details of where to find road closures.

13. **Date and Time of next meeting: 2pm Monday September 30th 2024**

14. Meeting Closed: 14.45

ALISTAIR LOTHIAN

CHAIRMAN