



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING AT MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL

MONDAY 2nd March 2026

Those Present Lesley Parkington – LP, Peter Gunn – PG, Geoff Clague – GC,
Paul de Weerd – PdW, Louise Whitelegg – LW

1. **Apologies:** Alistair Lothian, David Leiserach, Angela Weston, Paul Castle
2. **Minutes of last meeting:** having been circulated beforehand were approved by the committee and signed by Lesley Parkington, Secretary.
3. **Matters arising from previous meeting:** Lesley Parkington
 - There were no matters arising.
4. **Correspondence:** Lesley Parkington.
 - LP read out an email forwarded by David Leiserach from MHK Sarah Maltby regarding the Working Group Report prepared by DoI and DEFA.

“Partially- In July 2025, Tynwald considered the Working Group Report prepared by the Department of Infrastructure in conjunction with the Department of Environment, Food and Agriculture. That report set out, in clear and unequivocal terms, what was required to bring the Island’s Public Rights of Way network back to a safe, sustainable standard.

The findings were stark. The network faces a maintenance backlog of approximately £1.48 million. To address this properly, the Working Group identified the need for £831,301 in annual revenue funding to maintain the network, alongside £700,000 per year in capital funding over five years to eliminate the backlog. In total, this amounted to an annual requirement of around £1.53 million.

Tynwald debated the report on 14th July 2025 and unanimously supported the need for increased maintenance and proper resourcing of our footpaths, bridleways and green lanes. That vote was a clear reaffirmation of the scale of investment required and of the importance of protecting public access to our countryside.

In the 2026 Budget, £700,000 in capital funding has been allocated for Public Rights of Way improvements. While this mirrors the capital element identified in the Working Group report, it falls short of the full funding package previously recognised as necessary. Crucially, the additional recurring revenue funding identified by the Department as essential to sustain the network has not been matched in the Budget allocation. If it has, it has been hidden within the Departmental Budget uplift and not a stand alone line within the Budget.

In short, the capital allocation is a welcome step, but it must be accompanied by sustained revenue investment if we are to clear the backlog, maintain standards and future-proof the network for generations to come.

The commitment has been recognised in principle and, while this investment represents real progress, it falls significantly short of what I had hoped to secure. I voted against the Budget today overall, however, I supported the Capital Schemes Order to demonstrate my backing for the £700,000 allocation. Securing this funding has not been easy and it represents a substantial achievement given the effort required simply to obtain recognition and action. That said, I remain disappointed that the Treasury were not able to go further.

Thanks and best wishes,

Sarah Maltby OKF son Doolish Jiass- MHK for Douglas South”

LW suggested that the MFCG should lobby Visit IoM to contribute to the maintenance of the PROWs as this would attract visitors to the island.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** No report

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

Membership renewals have slowed with between 40-50 members not renewing but there are quite a few new members, many who are new to the island.

7. **Data Protection Report:** Louise Whitelegg

LW advised the committee that the Data Protection Registration has been updated for another year and there have been no Data Protection breaches.

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

- Risk Assessment: Compliance is good
- Incident Report: No new incidents and the Insurers have closed the file on a previous incident when a club member slipped on boardwalk.

9. **Footpaths Officer's Report:** No report

10. **Annual General Meeting:** Lesley Parkington

LP asked the committee to be at Mylchreest Court by 6pm to arrange tables etc. Outside caterers have been booked to provide a light buffet and should also arrive at 6pm.

11. **Annual Walk:** It was agreed that the date will be Saturday 16th May and it will be a bring 'n share tea. The venue will be Mylchreest Court. There will be a longer walk of approx. 8 miles starting at 10.30am and a shorter walk of approx. 3-4 miles starting at 1.30am, both groups to join together at 3pm for the tea. Start points and leaders required.

12. **Special Events:**

LP asked the committee for ideas for special events for the summer schedule. Several ideas were discussed.

It was decided to do two Calf Trips as we have several new members, 09.45am Tuesday July 28th and 11am Sunday 2nd August. Both will have approx. 3 hours ashore. (Booked)

Slavery Walk with Phil Craine

ACTION: LP to contact Mr. Craine for details

Tour of Isle of Man Creamery: Monday am is best as this is when they make the cheese.

ACTION: LP to confirm date & time with the creamery

LW suggested Temperate Rain Forest Restoration with the Wildlife Trust.

ACTION: LW to contact MWT for details.

LP suggested Tree Planting with the Manx Woodland Trust.

Fish 'n Chip night Wednesday 8th July – Port Jack Chippy, Douglas will serve until 8pm

13. **Challenge Walks:** LP said that no-one has specified a route for a challenge walk and most Saturday walks are approx 12 miles with varying degrees of difficulty.

14. **New club password:** snuffthewind26. To be sent out to members with the new schedule in April.

ACTION: LP to advise CJS websites of the new password.

15. Any other business:

LP stated that she has updated the proposed AGM resolution. After discussion the appropriate wording was agreed.

GC suggested that we should continue with £10 membership – all agreed.

LP advised the committee that John Struthers has agreed to stand for election to the committee and will take on the role of Safety Officer. John will be an asset to the committee

GC said that he will be off island for a large part of the year but is happy to stand for re-election unless the position is required for someone else.

LP asked that as the committee cover all walks between them could they suggest members who can be approached to take on one of the vacant committee roles i.e. Secretary and Events Co-ordinator.

16. Date & Time of next meeting: 2pm Thursday 9th April

17. Meeting Closed at 3.20pm

ALISTAIR LOTHIAN

CHAIRMAN