



## Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2026

Held at Mylchreest Court, Peel

7pm Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026

### 1. Welcome:

Chairman Alistair Lothian, welcomed everyone to the AGM.

Committee members present were: Alistair Lothian - Chairman, Angela Weston -Treasurer, Lesley Parkington – Secretary, Paul De Weerd – Safety Officer, Louise Whitelegg – Membership Secretary, Paul Castle – Footpaths Officer, Peter Gunn.

### 2. Apologies: David Leiserach, Brian Beattie, Rose Cannell, Mark Pendlebury, Moira Pendlebury, Gail Green, Lesley Cullen, Dot Winrow, Jack Verity, Alan Crebbin, Rob Wright.

### 3. To approve the minutes of the previous year's minutes held on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Proposer: Di Turner    Seconder: Ken Harding

The Minutes were duly approved.

### 4. Committee Report: Alistair Lothian

A warm welcome to all our members both new and existing, especially to those who are in attendance this evening.

This year, like most others we have had a fun packed and very full calendar. If we look back at some of the interesting events we have come together as group to enjoy we started the year with:

**Triskelion Way Challenge**, 19<sup>th</sup> April. First section Rushen Abbey car park to Fenella Beach , Peel.

**Triskelion Way Challenge**, 26<sup>th</sup> April, Second section Fenella Beach, Peel to Sulby Reservoir, Sulby.

**Annual Walk** 10<sup>th</sup> May. Station Road Car Park, St John`s. Actually two walks. a longer walk circa 8 miles and a shorter walk circa 3 miles. This year it was a bring and share tea with home made sandwiches and cakes. Great weather and two great walks with a lovely spread of food. I recommend it to everyone. Again a great way of meeting members who walk on different days from yourselves.

**Fish `n Chips Night**. Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July, A walk round Ramsey and then to the Trawlerman.

**Ayres Nature Reserve Tour**. July 16<sup>th</sup> & 20th with Manx Birdlife.

**Triskelion Way Challenge** 26<sup>th</sup> July Final Leg .

**Calf of Man tour** 8<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> August.

**Bat Walk** 13<sup>th</sup> August, with Manx Bat Group.

**Sea to Summit** back to the Sea challenge walk. 16<sup>th</sup> August. Laxey to Snaefell to Laxey.

**Another challenge walk**, Port Erin to Peel, 23<sup>rd</sup> August.

**Gaiety Theatre Tour**, Douglas, 3<sup>rd</sup> September.

**Night walks**, 22<sup>nd</sup> October, Wallabies & Spooky Tholtans.

**Star Gazing**, 19<sup>th</sup> November in the Carnanes.

**Winter Talk**, 26<sup>th</sup> November. The Life and Times of Cregneash and it`s people.

**Carol Service**, 14<sup>th</sup> of December. St Lukes Church, Baldwin.

**Afternoon Tea** at Ballagarey Chapel 16<sup>th</sup> December

**Winter evening walk**, 17<sup>th</sup> December. Christmas Lights and Sparkling Stories with Peter.

**Winter Talk**, 14<sup>th</sup> January. Manx Marine Monsters.

**New year lunch**, 18<sup>th</sup> January. Talk of the Town with fun quizzes.

**Moonlit walk**, 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Along the beach, Point of Ayre to Ramsey.

**Winter Talk**, 4<sup>th</sup> February, Behind the Scenes at Douglas City Hall.

On top of all of these activities keeping us busy are our regular walks that take place on Saturdays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our walker leaders who have stepped forward and come up with some wonderful and interesting walks on our island throughout the year.

Without our volunteer leaders and co-ordinators, we wouldn't have such a successful walking group that we do today. This is also a good opportunity to ask our members old and new that if you would like to have a go at leading a walk please do get in contact with the walk coordinator relevant to the day you fancy organising a walk. Members of the committee and other regular leaders will be more than willing to offer support or come up with a route prior to the event. If we don't get volunteer leaders then we don't walk. So please consider giving it a go, even if it's just one a year.

### **DOI and project update**

Over the past year or so we have been working together with the DoI on a joint project to improve the Island's walkways. Our current project entails building a bridge at Rhenass Ford near Little London and we have also managed to secure funding from the Ramblers group of £1500 along with our contribution of £1000.

Due to staffing issues at DoI the project has significantly slowed in its pace. We are however persistent in our pursuit to see this through and will endeavour to push on with our contacts in the DoI to hopefully deliver on this in 2026.

### **Changes to our Website in 2025**

We have updated the website adding in the scanned copies of some of the old walking books published by MFCG.

We have updated the joining page adding in bank details and updated GDPR.(General Data Protection Regulation) & Privacy Policy.

Freshened up some of the images.

Implemented a planned yearly check of the Website to make sure everything is relevant and up to date.

**Discounts from retailers** - 20% discount from Mountain Warehouse. We will reforward the discount vouchers.

**Commission for the club when booking Ramblers holidays** – If any of our members consider booking a holiday via Ramblers please mention our group at the point of booking as we receive commission due to our affiliation to the group.

**Happy Hikers** - The Committee is still committed to repairing and maintaining the carving & bench which we installed many years ago.

### **Support to other IOM groups**

Walking Festival, MFCG members are the back bone of the festival held end of September. Members help with leading and supporting the walks. Good fun and worthwhile getting involved.

Pilgrimage walk, Maughold Church is working on a Pilgrim Route across IoM as part of other routes across Europe and Scandinavia. Maughold were requesting help for MFCG. Thank you to club members Andrew Foxon and David Leiserach for volunteering to help.

The Rotary Club of Douglas Charitable Trust Centenary Appeal for the Hairpin Woodland Park and trying to Raise £100k for play equipment. The Committee, on behalf of MFCG, donated £250. The Committee agreed it was a great project and an area the group walks through from time to time.

During 2025 Ken Harding, Walk.im, ran two holidays in the UK for our Group. The holidays are very popular. Ken has organised two further walking holidays in 2026.

### **The Committee**

Our committee consists of Chair, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Treasurer, Safety Officer, Data Protection Officer, Footpaths Officer and up to three further members. We currently have 9 committee members and one vacancy, with further members retiring. The terms for each member are 3 years commitment before their position comes up for renewal and re-election.

This year we have two tenures coming up for renewal. Firstly, the Safety Officer role, this role has been held by Paul De Weerd for the last 3 years. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Paul for his time and efforts in fulfilling this role with such aplomb.

Our other role that is up for renewal is the Secretary role currently carried out by Lesley Parkington and she has done an absolutely outstanding sterling job. Lesley is definitely the back bone of our walking group and has gone above and beyond with her duties and involvement. We will be sincerely lost without her and we would like to take this opportunity to wholeheartedly thank Lesley for her dedication and hard work along with her constant energy she has brought to the group. A tough act to follow.

This now leaves us with two roles to fill. Details of both these roles, along with other committee roles, are readily available to anyone who is interested. As always, we are reliant on volunteers to run this group, without them we would simply not exist. If you are interested or know of anyone that might consider becoming a member of the committee please get in contact with myself or another committee member in the first instance.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our committee members for their time and efforts over the last 12 months

We are all looking forward to another great year of walking.

Kind Regards  
Alistair  
MFCG CHAIR

#### 5. **To receive the Treasurer's Report:** Angela Weston

##### **Manx Footpath Conservation Group**

##### **Treasurer's Report – Accounts Y/E 31st December 2025**

2025 has been a relatively quiet year financially. Our main financial focus has been to transfer some of our reserves into a Fixed term deposit account to get it to work a little harder for us. We transferred £10k into a six-month deposit with a rate of 3.65% in July 2025 and this will earn £185.

##### **Balance Sheet**

Focusing on the position on the bank accounts we can see the total opening balance equates to £21,967 with a closing of £22,619 creating an overall movement of an increase on the balance of £652.

	2025	2024	Mvt
Current Account - Lloyds	£1,794	£4,309	(£2,515)
Reserve - Lloyds	£10,826	£17,658	(£6,833)
Deposit	£10,000	£0	£10,000
	£0	£0	£0
<b>Total</b>	<b>£22,619</b>	<b>£21,967</b>	<b>£ 652</b>

This coupled with a movement in prepayment and accrued income of £175 and a decrease in our liabilities of £367 creates an overall increase in assets of £1,193.

Prepayment and Accrued income of £223 relates to £50 for a winter talk paid in 2025 but held in 2026 and £173 of interest earned but not yet received. Deferred income of £230 relates to the subscription income received from members into the bank account in the financial year 2025 that relate to subscriptions for 2026. The revenue will be shown in the Income/Expenditure account for 2026. The accruals of £77 are for the Ramblers affiliation fee not yet charged.

##### **Income and Expenditure Report**

The income is mainly driven from the yearly subscriptions which is currently set at £10 per annum per member. The current number of members for 2025 was 270 a few less than the previous year. We are however seeing a good increase to new members in 2026 although as we witness each year there are a good deal that also do not renew.

Bank interest increased £143 on the previous year of £197. This is due to the increase we are seeing from the £10k held in deposit.

Other income £10 relates to commission received from Ramblers for members booking holidays and referencing the Walking group. It might be worth reminding all members that if they are booking a walking holiday via Ramblers please can they remember to give MFCG a mention at the point of booking as this generates the group additional income.

This brings the total income for the year to £3,020 a reduction on the previous year of £102 mainly resulting from a drop in the donations received.

### **Expenditure**

The overall expenditure for 2025 totalled £1,828 a reduction of £79 on the previous 12 months.

The increase in costs has been mainly driven by the two items the first being **Donations to third parties** (£290 increase.) This year we have seen an increase in the talks/activities offered to the group throughout the year. As a thank you to these parties we have donated funds to their worthy causes. The talks/activities included the following: -

Rotary Club for the Hairpin Woodland Park £250

St Luke's Church £50

Tree Planting (Pat Mudie) £30

Manx Birdlife £150

Talk on Cregneash £30

Queens Pier Restoration Talk £30

Brian King – Wreck of the HMS Racehorse an 18th Century Royal Nay Sloop £30

The other increase in costs had incurred from the Website spend. This year we had all of our archived books converted into a format that was suitable to allow them to be uploaded to our website (£220).

The reduction in costs can be identified as follows: -

Health and safety costs reduced by £420 as prior year had the costs refresher first aid course. No courses took place in 2025.

Miscellaneous expenses were down £209 from 2024.

This has resulted in a surplus for the financial year of £1,193.

Any questions?

Just to say a thank you to Paul Eckersley for reviewing this years' accounts as our Independent Financial Reviewer.

Many thanks

Angela Weston

Treasurer

Signed

Date:

I have reviewed this report and the attached Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure account and I can confirm they are in accordance with the groups accounting records.

Paul Eckersley

Independent Accounts Review

Signed

Date:

**6. To receive and approve the balance sheet and Accounts for the previous financial year**

Proposer: Sue Harvey

Secunder: Susan Skillen

**7. To appoint an Auditor or Independent Financial Accounts Reviewer for ensuing year:**

Paul Eckersley was duly appointed.

**8. To receive Membership Secretary's Report:** Louise Whitelegg

- Currently 248 members including 5 lifetime members.
- 53 not renewed from previous year.
- All former members data has now been removed.

Please do encourage others to join and enjoy the Manx countryside with us.

**Data Protection**

- Manx Footpath Conservation Group is fully registered and up to date with the information commissioner.
- The Privacy policy has been updated and is periodically reviewed.
- We have had no reported data breaches.

If you have any questions, queries or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

**9. To receive Safety Officer's Report:** Paul de Weerd

**Risk assessments:**

Risk assessments continued to be received from the leaders of almost all walks. Once again my thanks to the walk leaders for their help in this.

**Incidents :**

During calendar year 2025 we received four incident forms from walk leaders. All four related to falls that had been caused by trip hazards or difficult conditions underfoot. Four of our group were hurt; all of them experienced and capable walkers. These incidents are a constant reminder that walking can never be totally safe; and explain why we place so much emphasis on recces and vigilance to try to keep risks at an acceptable level.

It has been a privilege to serve as Safety Officer for the past three years, please give every support to my successor.

**10. To receive Footpaths Officer's Report:** Paul Castle.

This role is to report footpath defects to the Highway's department (or other footpath owner)

You will find the email address on the website it is [footpaths@manxfootpaths.org](mailto:footpaths@manxfootpaths.org).

Please only use this address to report issues

What should you report? Any issue on a footpath that makes using the footpath unreasonably difficult. Please do not report 'trivial' concerns like small branches on a path, or the path being somewhat muddy, but if you need to be an olympic gymnast to get over a fallen tree, or are up to your knees in mud, then please do report that!

There is limited funding for maintenance let's try to ensure it is used for things that really are a problem.

How to report defects: As mentioned, above by email.

Essential information:-

- 1) exactly where the problem is. What 3 Words, OS map reference or GPS co-ordinates are all fine
- 2.) the nature of the problem with a little bit of detail. Eg Tree fallen blocking path

### Helpful additional information

- 1.) a description of the location
- 2.) the Right of way (or road) number if known
- 3.) **one** photo showing the problem

### What I do with the information

- 1.) I record it on a database
- 2.) I work out the right of way number (if not supplied)
- 3.) I check on the Highway's map that it **is** a right of way\*
- 4.) I report the fault to the authority\*

Sometimes people report faults that are not actually right's of way. Quite possibly you should not even be in that location! If it is a forestry path, I may be able to report it. If it is private land then I will not report it.

### What happens then?

- 1.) I generally get a reference number from the Highways department
- 2.) the fault may be repaired
- 3.) the path may be closed if considered too dangerousAt this time I do not get notified of if and when an issue has been addressed, but I am told that this is something the department hopes to be able to do in the future.

Number of reports submitted in 2024 – 56

Number of reports submitted in 2025 – 66

#### **11. To fix the Annual Subscription payable from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027.**

The committee suggested that the yearly subscription should remain at £10. All agreed

#### **12. To Elect a President for the ensuing year.**

Our present President has indicated that he would be happy to continue in the role for the coming year. All were in favour of Mr. Beattie continuing as President.

#### **13. To Elect members of the Executive Committee:**

There are six positions on the committee for election at this AGM. Retiring, Paul de Weerd. For re-election, Lesley Parkington, Angela Weston, Paul Castle. For election to the committee are John Struthers and Helen Robinson.

John Struthers:	Proposed by Alistair Lothian	Seconded by Jane Lothian
Lesley Parkington:	Proposed by Angela Weston	Seconded by Di Turner
Angela Weston:	Proposed by Lesley Parkington	Seconded by Jim Parkington
Paul Castle:	Proposed by Alistair Lothian	Seconded by Jane Lothian
Helen Robinson:	Proposed by Lesley Parkington	Seconded by Jane Lothian

All were duly elected onto the executive committee.

#### **14. Resolutions:** The reason for the resolution is to update and amend the Constitution.

This resolution was proposed by Lesley Parkington seconded by Alistair Lothian.

3.J) Two members of the Executive Committee shall sign all cheques authorising the disbursement of the Group's funds.

**Updated to:** *'Two members of the Executive Committee nominated by the bank i.e. Chairman, Treasurer or Secretary, shall authorise the disbursement of the Group's funds''.*

4. A) A candidate for membership shall apply by completing the approved nomination form which shall be signed and delivered to the Membership Secretary.

**Updated to** *'A candidate for membership shall apply by completing the online application form on the 'Join us' page of the website manxfootpaths.org'*

4. G) The Executive Committee shall have the power to remove the name of any member whose subscription is in arrears by three months or more from the list of members.

**Updated to:** *'This resolution proposal is to update and amend the 2022 Constitution at the 2026 Annual General Meeting. The reason for the amendment is to update the membership list by the 31<sup>st</sup> January each year rather than 31<sup>st</sup> March and remove those not wishing to renew their membership in a more timely manner. This allows a full month for membership subscriptions to be renewed.'*

All agreed that the constitution should be updated.

**15. Any other business:** Alistair Lothian

Di Turner proposed to the committee that Jim and Lesley Parkington should be awarded Life Membership of the club. The committee agreed. The amount of work that Lesley and Jim have put in for the club has been enormous. All agreed.

**Meeting closed:** 19.33.