



MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING AT MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL

Monday 14th September 2026 @ 3.30p.m.

Present: Alistair Lothian – AL, Lesley Parkington – LP, Peter Gunn – PG, David Leiserach – DL, Helen Robinson – HR, Paul Castle, PC

1. **Apologies:** Angela Weston, John Struthers, 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:** AL
 - Paul Castle and Alistair have had a meeting with DoI footpaths officers Ffinlo Williams (who is currently seconded to another position) and Wally who is now in charge of footpath maintenance. Joint Ventures: both Ffinlo and Wally are keen to pursue this, and we have left it open for them to come up with suggested project ideas and costs. Paul suggested instead of doing random work, it might make sense to focus on a particular walk such as the Millenium way and look to see what work needs done such as board walk, gates, styles, etc with the intention of each small capital project having a MFCG plaque.
The aim is to do extra work with DoI supplying the material and MFCG paying the third party contractor. The amount MFCG would pay would be agreed and capped and if any unforeseen contractor costs arise, they would be covered by the DoI.
Re club member outstanding invoice: Ffinlo will investigate this and send out a purchase order.
 - Meeting with Callum Staley to make website changes. Alistair to ask for a date in October.
Action: Alistair, Les and Helen to meet prior to meeting with Callum to ensure we have a complete list of changes required.
 - Permissive Path at Ballafesson: Peter reported that he has not yet found any concrete information, but it was a PRoW at some point it was changed to a permissive path and now it has disappeared completely. David said the DoI have sanctioned this loss as it was never put on the definitive map, despite there being footpaths signs on each end of the path
Action: Peter to continue to investigate this and report back at next meeting.
4. **Correspondence:**
 - PC tabled an email from Karl Millar, Control Room Manager DoI. He requests that Paul uses the Notify App rather than email when reporting footpath defects. There are several issues:- It means that walkers would have to use the App and it would be difficult to collate.
Action: Paul to reply.
 - Ramblers' information re safeguarding and dealing with difficult situations: This had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was agreed that the guidance regarding dealing with difficult situations should be circulated to members. It was suggested that the Safeguarding

advice is covered by stating that children must be accompanied by an adult. The Ramblers are circulating helpful information monthly, and it was agreed that HR should circulate any that she thinks would be useful to members. JS has offered to do the online course for leaders and report back. It was AGREED that the club would pay for the course. HR asked if running a training session for people interested in leading would be worthwhile. It was agreed HR to discuss further with JS.

Action: HR to liaise with JS about the online leadership course and discuss possible training session for prospective new leaders.

5. **Treasurers Report:** Angela sent the following report:

Balance as at 10/09/2026

Fixed Term £10,000.00

Reserve £ 4,037.61

Current Account £10,886.67

Over the last couple of months we have had £130 in subscriptions (£90 in August and £40 so far in September. Expenses include the following £130 for Internet costs, £28 for postage and £19 for committee expenses.

6. **Membership Secretary's report:** None

7. **Data Protection report:** None

8. **Safety Officer's report:** John Struthers had sent the following report.

Day

	No.of walks	no. risk assessments	% compliance
Tuesday	11	11	100%
Wednesday	6	6	100%
Thursday	16	13	81%
Saturday	20	20	100%
Sunday	21	18	86%
Overall	74	68	92%

The trend appears to be improving.

Incident Reports:

One reported action taken assisted the individual. (The incident which was forwarded to the insurers). No reply was received so I emailed them to see if they want each incident report forwarded. Still no reply, so I phoned them and they confirmed they prefer each incident form to be sent to them.

9. **Footpaths Officer's Report:** Paul Castle. There have been 8/10 reports since the last meeting mostly poor signage.

10. **Event Updates:** Lesley Parkington

Afternoon Tea – LP has asked if Ballagarey Chapel can provide afternoon tea on 1st December. Awaiting confirmation. Lesley will lead the walk.

New Year Lunch - 17th January at Talk of the Town.

Nigel Wood - The Voyage of the Odins Raven. Provisional date 20th January.

Tour of Tynwald – *on hold*

Sarah Christian - On the Tramp. HR to contact for date November or February.

Sue King - LP to contact re giving talk on the History of Ballaragh or eating out in the last 200 years.

Carol Service - LP has requested 13th December at St Lukes. No reply yet.

Phil Craine - Slavery Walk LP to arrange date for March or April.

Action: HR & LP to follow up.

It was suggested that we invite the Governor and Lady Lorrimer to the walk and afternoon tea in December.

Action: AL to invite.

Winter Schedule – Progressing, but plenty of dates to fill still.

Action: HR to send out club email to remind leaders to book their dates

11. First Aid Course: 8 people have registered an interest so far.

Action: Agreed HR to book a date with St John's Ambulance.

12. Any other business:

- Happy Hikers monument: HR reported that the plaque has deteriorated, but it was decided not take any further action as it had been refurbished recently.
- AGM date: Thursday 4th March 2026.

Action: HR to organise the buffet.

- Arrangements if leader can't lead: The process should be that Leaders should find their own replacement. **Action:** HR to include a reminder when the new schedule goes out.
- Donation for MWT: AGREED Donation £150 for MWT as they have led 3 walks.

Action: LP to provide bank details for AW.

- Hills Skills Course: AGREED HR to apply to the Lottery for 2 x course for 6 people and contact Andrew Foxon to enquire about the cost/availability.

13. Date and Time of next meeting: Monday 9th November 2026 2p.m. at Mylchreest Court.

14. Meeting closed at: 4.50p.m.

Alistair Lothian

Chairman