MANX FOOTPATHS
Conservation GROUP

Affiliated to The Ramblers

# MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGAT MYLCHREEST COURT, PEEL

## Monday 9th November 2026 @ 2p.m. at Mylchreest Court

**Present**: Alistair Lothian – AL, Lesley Parkington – LP, David Leiserach – DL, Helen Robinson – HR, Paul Castle, PC, Angela Weston – AW, Louise Whitelegg – LW, John Struthers - JS

**1. Apologies:** Peter Gunn

**2. Minutes from Previous Meeting:** Agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Matters Arising:**

- Update on meeting with DOI: No contact from DOI.

  **Action:** AL to email Ffinlo Williams and Andrew Kneale to remind them that we are waiting for their suggestions for footpath projects we could potentially fund.

- Permissive path at Ballafesson. PG had updated Helen that he is still investigating this matter and is planning to go the Public Records Office to see if the path ever appeared on the definitive map. DL reminded the meeting that he had circulated information previously which confirms this path is not on the definitive map and has never been a PROW. It was agreed that this item should now be taken off the agenda and that it is not necessary to inform the membership that the walking route has been closed by the landowners.

- Meeting with Callum Staley re website: HR & AL met with Callum to discuss the changes on 26.11.2026 changes, but he has not yet made the changes.

  **Action:** AL to follow up.

- Request from DoI to use the Notify app to report defects: PC has responded and not had any further contact. Paul has continued to report by email.

- Invitation to the Governor to attend a walk and afternoon tea in December: AL suggested that it would be better to invite him to the club walk in May.

  **Action: AL to follow up.**

- Date of AGM changed to 1st March 2026 due to room availability.

**4. Correspondence:**

- Email from David L – Possibility of path alongside the former Ballacallin Hotel being re classified as a PROW or Uroad. It was agreed we should ask members to write to the DOI if they have walked the path in the past 20 years.

  **Action:** DL to find out who to email and then HR contact the membership.

- Email from club member re cancellation of walks in bad weather. Discussed whether Whatsapp or facebook could help improve communication.

  It was agreed that additional advice about not walking if Amber or red warnings are in place would be included in the website guidance.

  **Action:** HR to reply.

**5. Treasurer's Report:**

Currrent Account: £3911.11

Savings: £10893.38

Fixed Term :£10000

Since last meeting we have received Subscription income of £40 in November and £20 in October

Expenses £28 paid to JS for Ramblers course, £150 Manx Wildlife trust and Bank fees £4

**6. Membership Secretary's Report: LW**

LW reported that new members get a handwritten card and a badge when they join, but that there are less than 50 badges left now. Agreed we like the design of the current badges and need to purchase more.

**Action:** AW to see if she has an invoice from previous purchase and order more.

**7. Data Protection Report: LW**

No issues. Our registration has been renewed

**8. Safety Officer's Report: JS**

Totals for Summer Schedule May - October 2026

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Tuesday | Walks 15. | Risk Assessments 13. | 87% compliance |
| Wednesday | Walks 6. | Risk Assessments 6. | 100% compliance |
| Thursday. | Walks 24. | Risk assessments 18. | 75% compliance |
| Saturday. | Walks 26. | Risk assessments 26. | 100% compliance |
| Sunday | Walks 27. | Risk assessments 20. | 74% compliance |
| Totals | Walks 98. | Risk assessments 83. | 85% compliance. |

Safety incident reports: 1 incident form completed during this period and sent to insurers. Leaders have been reminded.

Discussed what to do about people who fail to submit risk assessments.

**Action:** JL will contact people who aren't completing forms to see if a solution can be found. JL given permission to have leaders email addresses if he needs to contact individuals.

**9. Footpaths Officer's Report: PC**

PC continues to report faults. There have been 19 reports since the last meeting.

**10. Events updates LP**

All winter talks confirmed. First one is this Wednesday.

Visit to Botanic Garden . DL represented the group at a visit to the Shuttleworth Botanic Garden in Santon. It was agreed that a visit to the garden would be an excellent event for the summer schedule.

**Action:** HR to pass on the contact details to LP.

**11. First Aid Training HR**

All 12 places filled on this training course to take place on 25th November.

**12. Training for leaders/Potential Leaders HR/JL** (paper previously circulated)

HR has explored the options for training following the last meeting:

1. 2 Day Hill Skills Course Go Mann Adventures: No longer available.
2. 90 minute Online Walk Leaders Foundation Course run by the Ramblers: £28 per person. (See John's report circulated) Walk Leadership Foundations Course
3. 2 Day Navigation Skills run + optional other items at our request £120 NNAS Bronze Navigator – Go-Mann Adventures
4. On line basic map reading skills run by the Ramblers. £free. A beginner's guide to navigation - Ramblers
5. A less in depth in person map reading course could possibly be offered by Go Mann Adventures or another provider.
6. People who complete the online course could be invited to a leaders information sharing event where the learning points are shared and discussed.

After discussion it was agreed that an email will be sent to current leaders to ask if anyone would be interested in attending a meeting to share their knowledge with potential new leaders and establish what support/training potential new leaders need to develop confidence. The training that is available to support leaders (referred to above) can also be discussed at this meeting.

**Action: HR/JS**

**13. Any other business:**

- It was agreed that the donation given to people who agree to give a talk for the club would be increased to £40, and £50 to St Lukes Church for the carol service.
- Agreed that a walk on Boxing Day will be offered.
- Agreed that anyone joining from 1st November onwards would not need to renew until January 2028.

- HR to check with LW & PG if they will be standing for re election to the committee as papers will need to be circulated for the AGM prior to the next meeting.
- HR suggested if a PayPal account was so set up so that payments can be more easily made when joining, it may reduce the number of people who complete the form, but don't pay the fee.
  **Action:** AW to investigate the set up costs for a PayPal account and the level of fees charged to non profit organisations. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

**14. Date & Time of next meeting**: Friday 22nd January 2027 2p.m.

**15. Close meeting:** Meeting closed 3.30p.m.

Alistair Lothian

Chairman