**Calderdale LDWA Committee Meeting dated 11-7-23**

**Present**

Jane Guest

Karen Nash

Sandy Gee

Neil Midgley

Paula Pickersgill

**Apologies**

None

**Minutes from previous meetings**

Minutes from previous meetings dated 18-4-23 approved and agreed by Sandy, Paula and Neil.

**Constitution discussion**

Jane shared information regarding an email from Bill Milborn in respect of new bylaws added to constitutions, this document was some 15 pages long and after reading it, this appears to refer more to NEC requirements rather than local groups constitution. During this discussion we agreed that Calderdale’s constitution may not be on our website, Karen to locate and email a copy to Sandy to attach.

**Walks**

The joint walk with Vermuyden on Sunday 18-6-23, which was the Colne Valley Circular was positive with a variety of walkers and abilities. Vermuyden are keen to consider a second joint walk from Silkstone possibly mid-October.

Currently Calderdale have walks planned for July, November and December, Sandy to consider one in August. Stephen agreed at previous meeting to lead a walk, but not available today to confirm this.

Karen noted that she has a walk booked in Strider called Surprise Surprise, unfortunately Karen had also agreed to care for grandchildren that day and cannot let family down. As this walk is in Strider Karen requesting someone lead a walk from West vale so as not to let people down. Sandy agreed to consider leading a local walk starting in west vale to cover Karen’s walk.

Jane shared further information about up loading GPX files to enable the routes that local group walks are available in the future for people to access in any area. This is not yet a requirement but may become so in the future, there is expected to be positives and negatives of this request and sadly may put walk leaders off leading walks especially if they do not use GPS as a tool when walking.

**Challenge event**

At the previous meeting we considered options for a challenge event, the majority decision was to consider the Black Brook as our local group challenge event, this is because it is based in Calderdale, it has three loops ensuring only one main venue required for starting the walk, returning after each loop for refreshments and then finishing with the need for only one car checkpoint mid-way into the first 12 mile route. We considered how many members or volunteers would be required, Janes suggested around 14 people would be a minimum needed to run the event safely, whilst ensuring everyone enjoys themselves. It was agreed we need commitment from Calderdale members so please come to the next meeting and put your name forward to support your group.

Alan Tinker Chair of The irregulars who used to run this event has agreed that Calderdale can run the event as a Calderdale Challenge event. There are clearly many discussions and plans to be made however a provisional date of 3-8-24 is suggested, this date appears to avoid other Challenge events and ensures plenty of daylight hours for those walking all three loops considering of 4.5, 6.5 and 12 miles. We agreed all walkers would be asked to walk the 12-mile route first and then they can choose if they do the 4, 6 or bot afterwards.

Provisional suggestions of support so far are as follows: -

* Jane has excellent experience in organising the food for the event, she will source and organise requirements.
* Karen to consider and checkout the route and make any amendments as needed and consider the risk assessment.
* Jane to check toolkit for the risk assessment.
* Sandy to talk to Chris Burrel, Challenge event co-ordinator and then assist to book into Strider once dates and agreements accepted.
* Paula believes we should have a banner to advertise Calderdale LDWA, at our challenge event but also when Calderdale is helping at other events. Paula to investigate the cost of a banner, certificates, tally cards and possibly badges for the challenge event.

It is agreed that decisions are needed about, numbers of entrants, cost of the event, parking and what to write and put in Strider for the event. Karen agreed to prepare a draft suggestion for the next meeting, but all to consider and bring their own thoughts.

It is agreed there is a lot to manage to plan and manage a successful challenge event and that we would need more regular meetings to focus on tasks and plans, and the need for commitment from Calderdale members so that we do not have to request outside help, Calderdale is your group, please support your group.

**Any other business**

Walk secretaries meeting/weekend event is scheduled for 10-22 November and located in Dorchester, the cost is £50 for the first group member and then £100 for any other members wanting to attend. All group members were asked to consider if they wish to attend and represent Calderdale LDWA.

Neil shared an article he had read from a Ramblers group about dogs on walks, he wants to also write an article for Strider quoting some of the article he read and agreeing to ask people with dogs to wait for the group to cross a field first especially if there are cows in the fields, as often cows only become interested or even aggressive when there is a dog present.

Neil would like walkers to confirm if they are bringing a dog on his walks.

Neil also noted that our meetings dates are not added to our website, resulting in people not knowing when the next meeting is due. Sandy agreed to look at the website and add meeting dates so that new members can see the date of the next meeting in good time.

**Next meeting 18-9-23, 7pm at The drop Inn Elland, please note this is a Monday not Tuesday as previous meetings.**

Karen Nash

Calderdale LDWA group secretary