

Dorset LDWA Committee Meeting online
Wed 15 November 7.15pm
Minutes



Committee members present:

Heather Giles (Chair)
Tracey Lang (Walks secretary)
Richard Lang (Events secretary)
Pete Stockley
Paul Gibbs
Maria Drummond (Group secretary)

1. Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting. Committee has worked really hard together this year, organising two challenge events and a host of good social walks, thank you. As a committee and group, Dorset LDWA are doing really well – thank you. Pete Stockley will be standing down from the committee after the AGM, thank you for your commitment and work on the committee in the past Pete and we look forward to seeing you on walks and at events in future.
2. Apologies for absence: Ian
3. Matters arising from the online meeting 09 Aug 2023
 - 3.1. Item 8 Challenge events Dorset Duddle 20 Aug. Went really well. Blessed with good weather, participants smiley at the end! Volunteers did a great job. One or two tweaks for next year – enforce cut off times as some participants finished very late.
 - 3.2. Item 14 Local Groups weekend. Monumental thing to organise, Heather still recovering! Good experience for next time. Interesting weekend which went really well. Venue, catering and accommodation a step up from last year. George Albert Hotel was a fantastic venue. Blessed with sunshine on Saturday. Anne Brown and Ian and Heather led walks of varying lengths which were enjoyed. Showcased Dorset as well as we possibly could. Ian was our delegate for Dorset and took notes, which he will present at the AGM.
4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting 09 Aug 2023.
Proposed by Heather, seconded by Tracey. The minutes were approved unanimously.
5. Correspondence.
Nothing to report.
6. Treasurer's report (sent electronically prior to the meeting).
 - 6.1. Since the last meeting we have end of year - a couple of cheques only cleared in the first few days of October, so these are seen as uncleared cheque liability going forward to the current financial year. Additional spend in the new FY to date is £591.32 for various items – £25 donation to Shaftesbury Abbey, £132 for the hall for AGM, £15 as a Social Walk expense for contribution to use of Village Hall car park at Broadwindsor, 2 additional sail banners to have one at each checkpoint on challenge events, £40.60 postage and paper. Account balance at present is £9,547.93
 - 6.2. Outstanding commitment with cheques written but not yet distributed for £399.96 which is the previously agreed subsidy for transport for the group trip to Shropshire.
 - 6.3. Coach transfers for the 2024 Dorset Duddle - price has increased from £495 per 53 seater coach to £545 per coach.
- 6.4. The accounts have been examined and been verified that no transactions have not been properly included. Thank You to Wayne Bartlett for examining and verifying the accounts.

7. Walks secretary's report.

7.1. Review of September, October and November 2023 Walks Program - Walk numbers continue to rise, likely as members have returned from holidays.

Two social walks in September, Heather led from Hooke Park and Ian from Wardon Hill. Four social walks in October, including John Widdowson's further Pilgrim trail event, Heather led from Broadwindsor, Kim Legg was a first time walk leader from Affpuddle and Angela led from Barton Woods.

In November Richard and Sandra Brown led a very interesting social walk to include WW2 bunkers, with handouts of historical information. Members were invited to join Ian, Anne Brown and Heather as they led walks of differing lengths at the LDWA National Groups weekend which was in Dorset this year.

There was a very popular week of long distance walking further afield in Church Stretton in September - 19 members joined the walks. A special vote of thanks to Anne Brown for her tremendous organisational work including sorting accommodation, meals and fantastic routes.

7.2. Looking ahead - there is a half day walk for the AGM on 19 November, and a festive walk in December. There are a couple of spare Sundays which will be added if anyone offers to fill these.

Future plans for 2024

7.3. John Widdowson is arranging a series of 5 circular walks to cover the highest points in Dorset, based on earlier plans by Mike Childs.

7.4. The following linear walks will require transport, as we have the funds Tracey will go ahead to take plans further if the Committee agree:

- John Widdowson has offered to re-arrange the very popular St Edwards Way walk in 2 sections over a weekend, this has been requested by many members. (2 coaches will be needed)
- John Widdowson has offered to lead The Dorset Cernunnos & Catherine Way linear 22 mile walk from Cerne to Abbotsbury, this may be run Abbotsbury to Cerne as will be more accessible. (1 coach needed)
- Robert Powell has suggested an interesting walk in North Dorset/Somerset border which may go ahead next summer, from Penselwood to Wilton. (1 coach needed).

7.5. Okehampton Trip – 1 -3 March 2024 -there is a high level of interest, many have already booked. More details will be sent out very early in January 2024. No contribution will be requested from Group funds for this trip.

7.6. Decreasing pool of walk leaders, but Kim Legg was a first time leader who led an exceptionally popular walk.

7.7. What discourages people from leading walks? Most successful way to get walk leaders is to approach people individually and ask them directly. As a committee should we 1) continue as we are (approaching individuals to ask them to lead a specific day) 2) survey membership to assess barriers 3) run a zoom session for people to let us know what stops them volunteering 4) reduce the number of social walks on the calendar. Possible barriers – “others know Dorset better than me”, “I don't know much history/geography about the area to make it interesting” (response – there is no expectation to provide background information). Finding a suitable car park to start/finish is daunting (response – group funds can be used to offset cost of parking in village halls etc)

It was felt that reducing walks would reduce enthusiasm by limiting the number and choice of walks available to members.

ACTION: Maria to create a survey for members to complete at the AGM. Possibly

follow up with an online survey.

ACTION 2: Tracey will arrange a 'newcomer's walk with cake!'

8. Challenge events Spring 2024. Cerne Giant. 10 March & 24 March. Entries opened on 1 Nov, got 41 entries so far (double the rate of last year). Held last year's price for entry. Halls are all booked. Car parking arranged. Pat Clifton agreed to manage the HQ catering. Heather will oversee catering for checkpoints. Equipment - Ian has original 2 Sail banners plus 2 new ones.

Date for first Cerne Giant sub committee meeting – 6 December 7.15. Richard, Tracey, Heather, Pete, Ian, Maria, Paul.

ACTION: Richard will send links.

ACTION: Heather to email 1) Anne & Ian Brown to ask them to organise the Marshals walk.

2) Roger Frost to ask him to manage Sydling checkpoint, possibly assisted by Kathy Vickery.

Richard will approach John Widdowson to ask him to manage the checkpoint at Liscombe Chapel, and Deirdre Flegg to ask her to manage the checkpoint at Buckland Newton. Pete Stockley and his son have volunteered to manage a checkpoint.

9. AGM – 19 Nov 2023.

9.1. No new challenge events planned for 2025 so need to raise at the AGM this year.

9.2. Funds. A proposal will be taken to the membership at the AGM this year to suggest a way of managing 'excess funds' in future.

10. Date of next Committee meeting will be set at the AGM on Sunday.

11. AOB (Carry forward to Jan meeting)

1) nominations for special award

2) Constitution (Ian & Heather were looking into this)

3) Exchange weekend mentioned in the Strider (Heather researching)

4) First Aid coverage for walks / in the village halls etc as brought up by Deirdre recently (Pete's point)

5) The Cornwall and Devon group idea of providing discounted leadership courses for prospective new leaders might be something to think about. Future use of funds?

Meeting closed at 20:20

Future Dates:

19 Nov Dorset LDWA AGM

2024 10 & 24 March Cerne Giant Marshals & main event

2024 May LDWA 100 Speyside Hundred hosted by North of Scotland Group

2024 23 June Purbeck Plod

2024 18 August Duddle

2025 Spring Duddle West (linear)

2025 May 2025 East Anglian Hundred hosted by Norfolk & Suffolk Group

2025 August Duddle

2026 May Hunnypot Hundred hosted by Kent Group

2027 May Jurassic Coast 100 hosted by Devon & Cornwall