

Dorset LDWA Committee Meeting online
Wed 20 March 7.30pm



Minutes

Committee members present:

Heather Giles (Chair)
Ian Brown (vie Chair and Treasurer)
Tracey Lang (Walks secretary)
Richard Lang (Events secretary)
Paul Gibbs
Maria Drummond (Group secretary)

1. Chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked all for the efforts to make the Cerne Giant Marshals event happen last Sunday.
2. Apologies for absence: none
3. Approval of the minutes of the meeting 10 January 2024.
Proposed by Heather, seconded by Paul. The minutes were approved unanimously.
4. Matters arising from the online meeting 10 January 2024.
 - 4.1. AGM Nov 2025. Tank museum circa £700 - £1000. Hamworthy Club £12 per head. Leave decision to early 2025.
 - 4.2. AGM 2024 venue – Tarrant Keynston booked.
 - 4.3. Drop box – Chris is administrator. Only Chris Pitt and Richard L, Heather G, Maria D, Ian B have access. No sensitive data has been found.
 - 4.4. Summer social event – venue booked Tarrant Keynston
 - 4.5. National AGM – Heather went as Dorset’s representative.
5. Correspondence.
 - 5.1. Update on response to emails sent earlier in the year by Pearl (see 5.4 below). Outcome - no further action required at this time, pending outcome of further investigations by National Committee into Insurance details.
 - 5.2. Emails received 8 Feb ‘Notice of Planned Maintenance - 12th & 13th February 2024’ from IT team and ‘Beware of phishing’ and call for Strider articles from Pearl Barnes, Local Groups Officer.
 - 5.3. Email ‘Model Constitution for Local Groups’ from Bill Milborne (General Secretary) received 29 Jan. Forwarded to committee members 15 Feb. Item 11 in this agenda.
 - 5.4. Emails ‘Jan Bulletin’ received 20 Jan from Pearl Barnes, Local Groups Officer, covering Info for walk leaders, What3Words, volunteers. Answers to responses received 21 Jan clarifying what is meant by ‘recce’ ‘risk assessment’ and points about photographs and trips away. Follow up email received 22 Jan from Julie Cribb. Social walks update email received 1 Feb from Julie Cribb. To be covered under agenda item 9 in this meeting.
 - 5.5. Email received 16 Jan – possible safeguarding issue. Forwarded to committee members 15 Feb. It was agreed that if a walk leader feels that the safety of walkers is compromised, the walk leader can cancel the walk, at the leader’s discretion.

- 5.6. Email received 15 Jan from a member enquiring about qualifications to be a walk leader. Forwarded to Tracey Lang.
 - 5.7. Email from Brian Edwards requesting information on history of Cerne Giant event received 12 Jan. Forwarded to Richard, who replied. No further action required.
 - 5.8. Email re LDWA insurance from Chris Burrell received 3 Jan. Forwarded to committee members 14 Jan.
 - 5.9. Email re Green laning from Patricia Stubbs received 9 Dec 2023. No further action taken.
 - 5.10. Email re LDWA addresses from Richard May (IT & Internet Officer) received 24 Dec 2023. Forwarded to committee members 14 Jan. Some private mail addresses are being revealed 'In the medium term, we are investigating potential new email systems to replace our current solution. We hope to make an announcement on the replacement email system for the LDWA early in the new year.'
6. Treasurer's report.
 - 6.1. Bank account is now transferred to Bank of Scotland. Form sent on 14 March to close Santander account. Ian, Maria, Heather are signatories. SI Entries and Ramblers holidays have got new details and have made payments. The account allows future dated payments (by up to 31 days) which will make it much more efficient and quicker for all payments including for reimbursement of expenses. Hopefully the use of cheques will now be very limited.
 - 6.2. In the last report the cleared amount in the Group account on 8 January was £9,408.30.
 - 6.3. Income is £1,692.75 from entry fees for the 2024 Cerne Giant. There is £538.05 income for the Cerne Giant to be received. Other event expenditure is estimated at £1,060.00, which should mean an event surplus of approximately £760.
 - 6.4. Cleared Outgoing has been £19.36 outstanding from the Group AGM; £61.71 for the Solstice and pre-Xmas walks; £250.00 for the 2nd charitable donation to JYTAF; £66.66 for contributions to the Shropshire trip; £362.64 towards the official Group delegate to the National AGM; £45.00 as donations to various Village Halls for use of Car parks for social walks; £451.00 as final payment to Village Halls for the Cerne Giant and £122.16 for 4x Equipment crates. With these cleared transactions the account balance is currently £9,829.52.
 - 6.5. There is commitment of £133 for the RNLI visit (all income received from members who have participated); £100 Hall hire for the Summer Social (August); £100 Hall hire for the Group AGM (November); hire of minibus and driver for 3 Linear Social walks at a total cost of £775.00.
 - 6.6. Items are booked for the Dorset Duddle on Sunday 18th August: All Saints Hall, Swanage £140 (40% increase); West Lulworth Village Hall £80 (no increase); Minibus & Driver for retiree transport with Homeward Bound £595 (increase of £20); transport from Swanage to Weymouth with Bluebird Coaches £1,635 (9.4% increase). There is no provision yet for the small room at West Lulworth Village Hall for the Marshals walk and we usually make a small extra donation in the order of £10-£15 for using the grounds at All Saints.
 7. Walks secretary's report.
 - 7.1. We had a record number of walkers (30) for several years on the Snowdrop walk led by Anne Brown, closely followed by 28 walkers on the 'Introductory' Pamphill Cake Walk

lead by Tracey Lang, and 26 + 1 dog for the walk and lunch at the Dewlish Café led by John Widdowson.

- 7.2. Special thanks to Robert Powell, who salvaged the early part of the year by leading 4 walks in the first two months, including walks from Cranbourne, Shillingstone, Broadmayne.
 - 7.3. In March the Group trip to Okehampton, attended by 17 members, was very successful, there have already been requests for a repeat Spring break next year.
 - 7.4. The Cerne Giant Marshals' walk on 18 March was superbly organised by Anne and Ian Brown, assisted by Maria Drummond, Deirdre Flegg and Sue Widdowson. The going was very tough due to the muddy ground following the large amount of rain recently, but an excellent day out for all entrants.
 - 7.5. Richard Lang's Diversion walk on Sunday covered part of the alternative route we will need to use for the Dorset Duddle 2024 due to the cliff erosion. This walk may well be one of the muddiest ever and challenge Robert's reigning title as leader of the muddiest routes!
 - 7.6. Going forward - a busy summer program is planned, including John Widdowson's proposed "Skyline" series of 5 walks taking in the Dorset Daisies. These are based on an idea from Mike, the Daisies are 16 hills 250 metres or higher in Dorset. One of the 16 is actually marked as 249 metres, but there is some dispute. The hills were identified by the Ramblers. They were named the Dorset Daisies by John during a conversation with Jan, many know Daisy from previous Group walks.
 - 7.7. There remain a couple of Sunday spaces for those who also wish to lead.
8. Future challenge events
 - 8.1. Cerne Giant 24 March – all in hand. Event filled up very quickly. Thank you, Anne and supporters, for arranging excellent marshals walk.
 - 8.2. Dorset Duddle 18 Aug – we will utilise the diversion route from 2013. Need to open the event on SI Entries. Coach price needs to increase to cover rising costs. Agreed - £13 entry fee for members £23 for non-members + £12 for coach. We are currently losing money on cancellations because we are not recovering the amount charged to us by SI entries for cancellations. Cancellation fee to entrants to increase to 20% of amount paid by the entrant. Proposed by Richard, Ian seconded, carried unanimously. First sub-committee meeting will be online on 29 May 7.30pm. Richard and Heather will send an email to all members after Cerne Giant inviting new sub-committee members.
 - 8.3. Duddle West 2025 - 30 March 2025 – Final checkpoint – St Mary's Hall booked provisionally (very small kitchen). Consider running on the Saturday instead? Ian and Richard will check availability of venues.
9. Walks Registers are mandatory.
 10. Nominations for special award. Deadlines for this year have passed. Possibly consider again in September/October for next year. Tracey will circulate an email outlining categories - innovation, inspiration, eager beaver.
 11. Constitution. Postpone to next meeting.
 12. First Aid coverage for walks / in the village halls etc as brought up by Deirdre by email. In principle – yes. Ian to investigate St John's/ Red Cross to come and give a course for members.

13. Walk leaders - courses for prospective new walk leaders. Heather will circulate a pamphlet from Ramblers. Colin is running a navigation course.

14. AOB

14.1. Heather will send a report on LDWA National AGM, outlining points relevant to Dorset that we should know about/ act upon.

14.2. Next committee meeting. Wed 1 May 8pm

Meeting closed at 9pm

Future Dates:

24 March Cerne Giant Main event

1 May 8pm Dorset LDWA Committee Meeting

29 May 7.30 pm Dorset Doddle subcommittee meeting

May LDWA 100 Speyside Hundred hosted by North of Scotland Group

23 June Purbeck Plod

4 August Summer Group Social Event

18 August Doddle

9-10 Nov Local Groups weekend

17 Nov AGM

2025 Spring Doddle West (linear)

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

2025 August Doddle

2026 May Hunnypot Hundred hosted by Kent Group

2027 May Jurassic Coast 100 hosted by Devon & Cornwall

Action points

WHO?	WHAT?	WHEN?
Heather	Report on relevant points for Dorset group at National AGM	
Ian	Investigate costs to run a first aid course	
Richard & Heather	Email to members inviting people to join subcommittee to run challenge events	