

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
DORSET GROUP
COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Meeting, online, Monday 12 Sept 2022 7.00 pm

Committee members present:

Heather N Giles (HG) (Chair)
Pat Clifton (PC) (Group Secretary)
Ian Brown (IB) (Treasurer)
Tracey Lang (TL) (Walks secretary)
Richard Lang (RL) (Events secretary)
Sue Phillips (SP)
Pete Stockley (PS)

1. Chairman's welcome

HG welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated everyone on the success of The Dorset Duddle. She said there had been a lot of positive feedback and nice comments from entrants.

2. Apologies for absence

Chris Pitt

3. Matters arising from the online meeting 25 July 2022

There were no matters arising, other than those already included on the agenda for this meeting.

4. Approval of the minutes of the meeting 25 July 2022

Proposed by RL. Seconded by IB.

The minutes were approved unanimously.

5. Treasurer's report

The Group Treasurer (IB) had emailed his report to the committee prior to the meeting.

It contained the following items:

- i. The Group bank account statement for the period ending 21 July 2022, as presented to the previous meeting, showed a balance of £11,034.98.

The actual cleared balance on the most recent statement, dated to 22 August 2022, shows as £10,725.29, a reduction of £309.69.

This difference is due to:

- a) **cleared receipts** of £1,819.25 from SI Entries Ltd in respect of entrance fees for the Dorset Duddle 2022 plus £75 in cash on the day of the Duddle (bus entry, badge sales, donation)
- b) **cleared outgoings** of £2,203.94, mainly for the transport and a few expense claims for the Duddle, and also the expected payment for the summer solstice walk (previously reported).
- ii. Since the 22 August statement the group will have received a final payment of £978.49 from SI Entries Ltd in respect of the Dorset Duddle and there has been a total of £2,318.80 expenditure. This expenditure is mostly for cheques written in respect of expenses for the 2022 Duddle but also included is the £400 subsidy agreed for the group Lake District trip, £132 for the hire of Durweston Village Hall (for our group AGM 2022) and a £610 donation to the LDWA National IT Development Fund.

When these known items are cleared the amount in the group account will be £9,384.98.

- iii. One item of expected expenditure is the purchase of group 'sail' banners. This has been an outstanding issue for a while and discussed several times. Purchase was approved by a previous AGM, but is still not actioned. Now that the Dorset Duddle has been successfully completed, this should become a matter of priority. The amount needed for the purchase is unknown at present.
- iv. The Committee has previously agreed that TL should become an additional signatory to the Group bank account. CP has suggested that, if we are not allowed to have a fourth signatory, he should be removed. IB will arrange for the required forms to be sent.

Action: IB

- v. The Dorset Duddle 2022 had a surplus of £1,743.61 and this is the reason for making the £610 donation to the National IT Fund, following the policy agreed at the Group AGM in 2020. A breakdown will be included in the AGM report.

Following IB's report there was some discussion regarding the number of entrants on the Dorset Duddle who were not members of the LDWA. The donation to the IT fund is affected by the number of non-member entrants.

IB mentioned that the Group will be making a loss in the financial year ending 30 Sept 2022, in line with our policy, previously agreed, to reduce the funds we hold.

6. Social walks programme

The Walks Secretary (TL) had emailed her report to the committee prior to the meeting. It contained the following information:

The August and September program was quieter than earlier in the year. There were 7 walks on the program, totalling 135.5 miles. A walk was postponed, due to exceptional heat, and one with a very early start walk was taken up by very few members and did not go ahead. Many regular walkers helped on the Dorset Duddle. Colin Utting led an exceptionally interesting “History” walk, which was also much appreciated by the 7 out of area visitors, 5 from Wiltshire Group.

In early autumn many members are on holiday and 24 will be going to the Lake District with Colin Utting. There are currently spaces on the program for walks in October and particularly November. TL is away for much of this period, but will try to encourage some additional walks.

The Group continues to rely on experienced walk leaders, as it is hard to encourage new leaders without putting off new members. TL and the committee will continue to consider ways to do this.

TL is working on **events for 2023** as follows:

1) Well, Well, Well

2 days of walking from Wells to Cheddar and Wells to Glastonbury, with the option in each case of walking one way and taking a bus back, or walking both ways. TL is planning for the walks to be on a Sunday and Monday, with those participating booking their own overnight accommodation in Wells. She added that there is a Premier Inn and also a Wetherspoons in Wells, hopefully making the cost manageable. TL is hoping that this might appeal to those who are unable to travel for the longer September holiday. Sunday walkers could do just the one day, if they wish.

2) Dorset’s Pilgrim Trails:

- Ways to Whitchurch Canonorum - 18 miles
- Dorset Old Stones Way - either 19 or 26 miles
- Dorset Cernunnos and Catherine Way - 22 miles
- St Edward's Way - 30 miles

TL said she had not fully worked out the details of these walks yet, but as 2 of the walks are linear and therefore requiring transport, she was seeking funding approval in principle, before doing more planning. The committee agreed this unanimously. TL also mentioned the possibility of issuing a certificate to members completing all 4 walks, with an ‘anytime option’ for those unable to walk on a particular day. TL said she would explain her plans more fully at the Group AGM.

7. The Dorset Duddle 2022

- **Contribution to the IT fund** - as mentioned in the Treasurer’s report a contribution of £610 has been made to the national IT fund. This is in line with the agreed policy to donate £5 for each non-member entrant on our challenge events.

- **Surplus food** - the canned food is currently being stored for use at the AGM or on future challenge events. If necessary some, or all, may be given to local foodbanks at a later date. Other food items have already been donated.

8. The Dorset Duddle 2023

RL asked for confirmation of our previous agreement to run The Duddle on 20 Aug 2023 and that he should make the necessary payments to secure the bookings of Lulworth Village Hall and All Saints Church Hall. Both were confirmed.

Action: RL

There was some discussion regarding coach and minibus hire for the event and IB agreed to investigate the options available nearer the time.

9. The Cerne Giant 2023

RL reminded the committee that we had provisionally agreed on the date, 19 Mar 2023, to run this event. RL also said that if the event is to appear in December's Strider some information would need to be sent in by the end of this month. He agreed to do this, with final details to follow.

Action: RL

HG volunteered to be in charge of catering for this event. TL said she would put both challenge events on the group website.

Action: TL

Items listed in the agenda with:

- **The marshals' event** - IB volunteered to run this and a date of 5 mar 2023 was agreed.
- **Car Parking** was discussed at some length due to the limited options in the village. Restricting the number of entrants to 180, to reduce the number of spaces required, was considered a possibility. Heather agreed to investigate the availability of various sites around the village.

Action: HG

- **The village halls** needed have been reserved by RL for 19 Mar 2023 and he agreed to confirm and pay the deposits for these bookings.

Action: RL

- **A sub-committee** - it was agreed that one is needed to run the event and the involvement of group members is essential. TL said she would be willing to

organise the volunteers and would send out an email to the membership to invite them to join the sub-committee.

Action: TL

10. Local Groups' Weekend 20 Nov 2022 - report for AGM

HG confirmed that she would be going to The Local Groups' Weekend on behalf of the group and that she would present a report on it at the AGM.

11. The AGM (11 Dec 2022)

There was a brief discussion confirming that Durweston Village Hall has been booked and paid for, and that Deirdre Flegg has kindly agreed to do the catering once again. TL said she is prepared to lead a walk in the morning, unless another member of the group comes forward to do so.

12. Replacement Group Secretary

PC agreed to email all primary members of the Dorset group to ask them to consider putting themselves forward to take over as Group Secretary, as she will be standing down at the AGM.

Action: PC

13. Date of the next committee meeting

A provisional date of 16 Jan 2023 was agreed.

14. AOB

- SP expressed an interest in helping HG with the catering for the Cerne Giant and in completing the food safety training. It was generally agreed that having a group of members willing to get involved with catering for challenge events would be ideal.
- RL said that a provisional date for the first meeting of the Cerne Giant sub-committee is needed and 17 Oct 2022 at 7.30pm was agreed.

Diary of Events

26 - 30 Sep 2022	Group trip to the Lake District
17 Oct 2022	Cerne Giant sub-committee meeting
20 Nov 2022	Local Groups' Weekend
15 Nov 2022	Possible committee meeting, if needed prior to the AGM

Committee Meeting online 12 Sep 2022

11 Dec 2022	Dorset Group AGM
5 Mar 2023	Cerne Giant marshals' event
19 Mar 2023	Cerne Giant
20 Aug 2023	Dorset Duddle