

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION  
DORSET GROUP  
COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Meeting, online, Thursday 14 October 2021 7.00 pm

Committee members present:

Chris Pitt (CP) (Chair)  
Pat Clifton (PC) (Group Secretary)  
Robert Powell (RP) (Treasurer)  
Anne Brown (AB) (Walks Secretary)  
Richard Lang (RL)  
Ian Brown (IB)  
Martin Callow (MC)

Non-committee members present:

Heather N Giles (HG)  
Pete Stockley (PS)

1. Chairman's welcome

CP welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially HG and PS who were attending for the first time.

2. Apologies for absence

An apology had been received from Sue Phillips who had been hoping to attend, as a non-committee member, but was unable to do so.

3. Matters arising from the online meeting 5 Aug 2021

CP stated that the planning of challenge events, for 2022 onwards, would be for the new committee to discuss at the AGM.

4. Approval of the minutes for the meeting 5 Aug 2021

The minutes were approved.

5. Treasurer's report

RP had sent the report to the other committee members prior to the meeting. He made the following points:

- The Group bank account statement for the period ending 21 September shows a balance of £9,595.44. There are no uncashed cheques and no cheques have been written since 21 September.

- A contribution of £400 was made to Colin Utting, in respect of primary members attending the North Wales trip that he organised.
- Expenditure on seven breakfasts for primary members on the 2020 Winter Solstice walk was £35.75 (2020: £95.34), an average of £5.11 each.
- Whilst Durweston Village Hall has been booked for the AGM at a cost of £132, the invoice for the hire will be received after the event, in case Covid leads to enforced cancellation.
- A table showing the financial out-turn for the year ended 30 September 2021, will be provided at the AGM, subject to the Examiner of the Accounts approving the figures.

There followed a short discussion regarding Sue Phillips possibly taking over from Colin Utting as the examiner of the accounts. It was agreed that it could cause a conflict of interest if Sue were also to become a member of the committee. In view of this, RP agreed to ask Colin if he could try to find someone else to replace him, with Colin raising the matter at the AGM if necessary.

Action: RP

## 6. Social walks programme

AB had sent a short report to the other committee members before the meeting. It included the following information:

- Walks continue to be well supported but not by excessively large numbers like we were seeing pre-pandemic. There are a steady number of new members both joining and coming on walks.
- The residential trip to Snowdonia organised by Colin Utting was a great success.
- The walks programme for the next 3 months is looking quite full, with a good mix of walks.
- There is the promise of one more walk at the end of October, and it is hoped that there will be a few more volunteers coming forward for November / December.

There was a short discussion regarding the location of the walks in the county, whether east or west, and possible overlap with the longer walks (around 15 miles) on the Ramblers website. Using the same dates as the Ramblers was not considered to be a problem, as so few of their walks are of this length.

## 7. Approval of expenses for refreshments on Christmas walk.

Approval was granted for Richard and Tracey Lang to offer the traditional mulled wine and mince pies on their walk on 12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021. These to be paid for out of group funds.

## 8. Nominations and Motions for the AGM

The following nominations were made:

### Officers:

- Chair - None
- Group Secretary - Pat Clifton (Proposed: Robert Powell; Seconded: Ian Brown)
- Treasurer - Ian Brown (Proposed: Anne Brown; Seconded: Richard Lang)
- Walks Secretary - None
- Events Secretary (Challenge Events Co-ordinator) - Richard Lang (Proposed: Chris Pitt; Seconded: Martin Callow)

### Other Committee Members:

- Chris Pitt (Proposed: Martin Callow; Seconded: Robert Powell)
- Pete Stockley (Proposed: Pat Clifton; Seconded: Richard Lang)
- Heather N Giles (Proposed: Robert Powell; Seconded: Richard Lang)

CP highlighted that having a walks secretary in place is important to the day to day running of the group.

## 9. The open meeting 14 Sep 2021

There was a short discussion of the open meeting, with some members of the committee expressing disappointment that it had not attracted more interest from the membership. The small number who joined the meeting were very welcome and raised some hope that more members would be willing to get involved with helping to run the group soon.

## 10. Feedback from the local group representatives' weekend 2020.

The feedback from this weekend, held online in November 2020, had finally come through and been circulated to the other committee members by AB. It was agreed that this had come too late, as most of the items discussed had been already acted upon.

## 11. LDWA 50-Year Anniversary

There had been only one idea submitted for our group's contribution to the celebration of the 50-year anniversary. This had come from AB.

Her idea was for a **Dorset 50:50:50 Challenge** in which the group would try to get at least 50 Dorset members (primary or associate) to walk at least 50 miles each,

on Dorset organised social walks, over 50 days. AB had suggested that the 50 days should start on 8 May and end on 26 June, thus encompassing the national 50-year celebration weekend (18/19 June) and mid-summer's day.

At the meeting AB suggested an updated version of this, in which participants could choose to walk 50 miles over one weekend, in addition to the idea above.

There was a short discussion regarding which weekend this should be and whether we should make it the same weekend as the national celebration. It was agreed to decide this nearer the time. CP suggested that the fact it was a 50-year anniversary event should be included on any certificates issued.

#### 12. Local group representatives' weekend 12-14 Nov 2021

- Subjects we would like raised by Deirdre Flegg and Mike Childs, who are attending on behalf of the Group.

The committee had nothing to add to the agenda for this weekend.

#### 13. The AGM 2021

- Liaison with Deirdre Flegg regarding the lunch

The budget for this was discussed and it was agreed that Deirdre, who has a wealth of experience in catering for events, would be able to decide on a reasonable budget and let us know. PC agreed to ask Deirdre to do this.

Action: PC

#### 14. Date of the next committee meeting

This is to be confirmed, by the new committee, after the AGM.

#### 15. AOB

- Group trip to Snowdonia 23 -27 Sep 2021

AB reported that the group trip had been a great success, with 17 members taking part, some of whom were relatively new to the group. She said that on some days there was more than one walk, with the group splitting into those wishing to go scrambling and those preferring not to do so. One evening the participants had enjoyed a take away meal rather than eating out and the contribution from group funds had been much appreciated. PS, who had also been on the trip, agreed with AB's comments.

- Thanks to retiring committee members

The committee members retiring at the AGM were thanked by CP and other members of the committee for their invaluable contributions to the Dorset

Group. CP expressed his appreciation to RP for his attention to detail, MC for the many roles he had taken on and AB for doing a great job in difficult times. PC thanked CP for his great leadership of the group.

### **Diary of Events**

1 Nov 2021 possible additional committee meeting (online)

12-14 Nov 2021 Local group representatives' weekend

28 Nov 2021 Dorset group AGM

18 - 19 June 2022 LDWA 'mass event' celebration of 50 year anniversary