

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
DORSET GROUP
COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Meeting, online, Thursday 2 July 2020 7.00 pm

Committee Members present:

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

1. Chairman's welcome

CP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies, all committee members were present.

3. Matters arising from the last 2 virtual (online) committee meetings and the meeting 9 Jan 2020

From the meeting 9 Jan 2020:

- RP said he had begun the task of sorting through the financial records for the years prior to the financial 2013/14, with a view to their destruction. He will bring the relevant information to the next meeting.

Action: RP
- Notification of Santander of the changes to the committee membership and the completion of the necessary paperwork for IB and RL are currently on hold, due to the difficulties caused by the Covid 19 restrictions. RP will review when possible.
- RP had agreed to check the amount of the donation from group funds to the group holiday in Wales in 2017, with a view donating a similar amount to the holiday being organised by Colin Utting in Sep 2020 (if it goes ahead). He stated the amount was £415.82.
- Drafting of the Dogs on Walks Policy by AB - see item 13 below.
- Organisation of first aid training for group members, by CP, is currently on hold due to Covid 19 restrictions.

From the online meeting 9 Apr 2020:

- Design of the new Dorset LDWA logo - see item 12 below.

From the online meeting 28 May 2020:

- List of discussion points, regarding social distancing and risk reduction, to be drawn up by MC - see item 6 below.

All other actions arising from these meetings have been completed by members of the committee.

4. Financial update

RP had sent out his financial report to the committee members prior to the meeting. It contained the following information:

- The Group bank account statement for the period ending 22 June 2020 shows a balance of £11,878.85. Having regard to cheques uncashed at that date, cheques written since and taking account of income received since, the bank account balance as at 29 June was £11,495.93.*

The group £200 retention held by agreement with SiEntries Limited, for refunds to entrants on any Dorset LDWA challenge event, was used for refunds to entrants of the Duddle 2020. Therefore, the total cash assets of the group as at 29 June are as stated above.

RP reminded the committee that SiEntries will retain £200 from the total entrance fees paid for the next event we run.

- The balance at 22 June includes income of £40 received from RWH Travel Limited in respect of our members booking Ramblers Holidays.*
- The combined outturns for the Cerne Giant Marshals' event held on 1 March and the cancelled Cerne Giant, which was due to be held on 22 March 2020, are as follows:*

Total income: £2,073.00

Total expenditure: £1,481.54

Event Surplus: £591.46

An additional £61.16 was paid in respect of travel for the event and allocated to group challenge expenses.

RP asked the committee to confirm that a donation of £591.46 should be made to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and this was agreed.

Action: RP

- Following the cancellation of this year's Duddle entrants were given an option of a full refund or to donate their entry fee, such that once group expenses were defrayed, the balance will go to the national LDWA IT Fund. The financial outturn for the Duddle 2020 will be reported to the next committee meeting.*

RP commented that various financial arrangements, including payment of travel expenses for those helping on challenge events, had been agreed at the group AGM in 2017. He said these agreements will be expiring this year and he will make a list of proposals for updating the arrangements, so they can be discussed at the next committee meeting and put to the membership at the AGM.

Action: RP

There was some discussion about the adjustment of entry fees for future events and it was agreed that this would also be discussed at the next committee meeting and the AGM.

5. Matters arising from the cancellation of The Doddle 2020

All bookings of village halls and transport for the Doddle 2020 have been cancelled by committee members, except that for All Saints Church Hall, Swanage. This has been transferred to Sunday 22 Aug 2021, for the Doddle 2021 and the deposit paid has not been returned.

Refunds to entrants have been completed.

6. The Cerne Giant 2021

MC had agreed, at the previous meeting, that he would draw up a list of discussion points regarding social distancing and risk reduction for this event, in line with government Covid 19 guidelines. He said that this had been overtaken by events, with the NEC developing their own guidance, so it was agreed to put this on hold until the committee meeting in Oct 2020.

There was some discussion about entry fees for this and other future events, with particular regard to the need to raise funds for the national IT project. As entrance to the Cerne Giant does not open until 1 Jan 2021, CP pointed out that the fees do not need to be publicised until then. It was agreed to discuss this at the next meeting, prior to the AGM.

With regard to booking the village halls at Cerne Abbas and Buckland Newton RP said this had been done, as far as it is possible to do so, depending on the situation regarding Covid 19 nearer the time.

7. The Dorset Group checkpoint on the Wellington Boot

PC shared the list of volunteers with the committee and agreed to contact Deirdre Flegg to ask if she would like to lead on running the checkpoint.

Action: PC

8. The social walks programme

AB said that following the updated guidance from the NEC, some Dorset walks are going ahead, while others had been cancelled. She said all details are on the website.

9. The local groups' weekend

AB described the usual format of the local groups weekend and said that this year it is likely to be an online event, rather than a weekend away. The weekend of 13 - 15 Nov has been agreed and names of committee members wishing to take part should be given to Julie Cribb by the end of July. AB and CP said they would be willing to put their names forward. CP he was willing to take part as outgoing chair of our group, because he is standing down at the AGM in Nov 2020.

10. Arrangements for the AGM

There was considerable discussion regarding how the AGM could be held this year, taking into account possible restrictions due to Covid 19. The group currently has a booking for 8 Nov 2020 at The Fox Inn at Ansty, for which a £150 deposit has been paid.

The committee agreed that it is possible that the AGM may need to be held online and consideration will be needed as to how this could be done, with particular regard to arrangements for members to vote on any motions. Alternatively, if a large enough hall could be booked, the AGM could go ahead with social distancing measures in place. The village hall at Cerne Abbas was suggested as a possible venue. It was considered unlikely that a lunch could also be arranged under these circumstances. CP suggested a number of small group walks could be planned, depending on the number of walkers permitted in each group at the time.

CP agreed to do some planning for a possible online AGM.

Action: CP

The committee agreed to meet online, on 10 Sep 2020, and make a final decision regarding the format and arrangements for the AGM.

11. What to do with food left after a challenge event

The committee agreed to defer this discussion to a future meeting.

12. New Dorset LDWA logo

CP had previously shared with committee a set of guidelines, to be sent out to group members to help them submit designs for the new logo. This was discussed and he agreed to make some amendments.

Action: CP

13. The Dogs on Walks Policy

The committee approved the policy written by AB and she agreed to send it to the NEC.

14. Bill Peach

The committee were very much in agreement that we would like to do something to honour the memory of Bill Peach. A number of ideas were discussed, including the possibility of renaming The Dorset Duddle in 2021 as "The Bill Peach Dorset

Doddle” and donating any profits made on the event to the cancer charity chosen by Bill and his family. It was agreed that this idea should be put to the membership at the AGM.

15. Dates of the next committee meetings

The committee agreed to retain the booking at Sturminster Marshall Memorial Hall, for a possible face to face meeting, on 2 Oct 2020. This will be reviewed nearer the time.

An additional online meeting was agreed for 10 Sep 2020, as in item 10 above, to be devoted to planning the AGM.

16. AOB

- RP proposed that the purchase and delivery of the retirement gift for Julie Bardswell should be recorded in the minutes.

The committee wish to record their gratitude to Julie for her many years of service on the committee and her generous help in running group and challenge events. The committee also wish to express their thanks to Deirdre Flegg for choosing a garden clock, which she presented to Julie on behalf of the group.

Diary of Events

10 Sep 2020	Committee meeting (online) to discuss AGM
2 Oct 2020	Committee meeting
8 Nov 2020	Group AGM
21 Mar 2021	Cerne Giant
17-18 Apr 2021	Wellington Boot (Dorset Group running a checkpoint)
22 Aug 2021	Dorset Doddle