

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
DORSET GROUP
COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Meeting, online, Friday 2 October 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. There was a short discussion regarding the use of Zoom for this and future meetings.

2. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies, all committee members were present.

3. Approval of the minutes of and matters arising from the meetings 2 Jul 2020 and 10 Sep 2020

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 Jul 2020 and 10 Sep 2020 were approved.

In matters arising CP mentioned The Wellington Boot Challenge Walk, due to be run by The Cornwall and Devon Group 17-18 Apr 2021, on which we have agreed, on the group's behalf, to run a checkpoint. As Deirdre Flegg had agreed to be in charge of this checkpoint it was considered advisable to have a back-up plan, should she no longer be available. RP and CP both said they would be willing to step in.

4. Treasurer's report

RP summarised the written report, which he had sent to committee members prior to the meeting. It contained the following information:

- The Group bank account statement for the period ending 21 September 2020 shows a balance of £10,842.96. Having regard to cheques uncashed at that date, cheques written since and taking account of income received since, the bank account balance as of 28 September was £10,268.36.

The group currently has no retention held by SiEntries Limited for refunds to entrants on any Dorset LDWA challenge event. Therefore, the total cash assets of the group as of 28 September are as stated above.

- An email of thanks was received from both the LDWA Treasurer and Chair in respect of the donation to the IT Development Fund. Dave Morgan stated that he would like to advise the national membership, in his next newsletter, that Dorset had made this contribution and RP agreed to this.
- The anticipated £150 refund from The Fox Inn, Ansty in respect of the AGM meal deposit was observed not to have been received following the checking of the bank statement for the period ending 21 September, this despite previous email assurances from the pub. Further contact with the pub on 24 September led to an email informing RP that payment was made that day. RP is confident that the refund has now been made and will verify it when the next bank statement is received towards the end of October. He will update the committee in due course.
- Following all the above, the provisional outturn for the end of the financial year on 30 September 2020 is £10,418.36, as indicated in the last report. The accounts for the year will shortly be passed to the examiner of the accounts, so that he has sufficient time before the AGM to undertake the examination and make any necessary comments.

Action RP

- The meeting of 9 January this year discussed the proposal to destroy financial records older than six financial years, the outcome being that the records proposed to be destroyed would be brought to the next committee meeting. This has not been possible. For clarity, the proposal would retain electronic records, the Summary of Group Accounts for each financial year and the associated approval by the examiner of the accounts. The records to be destroyed have recently been shown to Anne Brown, Ian Brown and Martin Callow, who have raised no adverse comment and so, with the new financial year having started on 1 October, the appropriate paper records, up to and including the 2013-14 financial year, will be destroyed by shredding. The financial records in respect of the Dorset 100 will be retained, even when the appropriate passage of time has elapsed.

5. Social walks programme

AB reported that there had been 18 walks since social walks resumed in the last week of June and that there were 3 planned for October, so far. This is more than one per week, with good support from leaders both old and new, but more leaders are always wanted. AB said that most walks were limited to 6 walkers, as many leaders were uncomfortable with completing the risk assessment, which would allow them to include up to 30 walkers, if they should wish to do so. The number of walkers is at the discretion of the leader and there was some discussion regarding the numbers committee members were comfortable with. It was

acknowledged that some leaders would be concerned about judgement from local people when leading larger groups through communities.

CP thanked AB for doing a brilliant job during the ongoing pandemic.

6. Incident report

The committee discussed the incident report for the events of 30 Aug 2020, which had been sent to the national treasurer. No further action was considered necessary.

7. The Cerne Giant

There was some discussion regarding the possibility of running the Cerne Giant with modifications to the checkpoints, procedures etc. but due to uncertainty with regard to the ever changing rules and guidelines from the government and NEC, the committee decided to cancel the event. In its place CP suggested an “anytime challenge” event, based on the Cerne Giant route, to be completed in March 2021. CP will arrange an online meeting to discuss this soon.

Action: CP

MC agreed to draw up a draft plan by 16 Oct 2020, to be discussed at the meeting.

Action: MC

RP said he would cancel the village hall bookings for the Cerne Giant.

Action: RP

The need to change information regarding the Cerne Giant on the LDWA website and the entry in Strider was raised. CP said he would amend the entry in Strider and RL agreed to change the website.

Action: CP and RL

8. Sir Fynwy 100 2021

Despite uncertainty as to whether the Sir Fynwy 100 will be able to run, CP said that we (the Dorset Group) are still being asked if we are prepared to run a checkpoint, as previously agreed. He suggested this could be raised with the members at the AGM, with the hope that more details will be available as to the arrangements by then, assuming the event is going ahead.

9. Draft motions for the AGM

The committee discussed a number of motions to be put to the membership at the AGM. Details were as follows:

- To grant approval for a per capita subsidy towards breakfast for group members on a summer or winter solstice walk, subject to a maximum of £100 per solstice event.

Proposed - Robert Powell
Seconded - Pat Clifton

- To grant approval to subsidise a summer barbecue, subject to a maximum of £150 per annum.

Proposed - Robert Powell
Seconded - Ian Brown

- To grant approval of a provision of £500 per annum to contribute to members' reasonable out of pocket costs (excluding time) incurred in supporting Dorset Group challenge or challenge marshal events. Allowable costs shall include travel to determine if premises are appropriate for a challenge walk, or for the purpose of writing and checking the route for a challenge walk. Expenditure shall be monitored by the committee and the committee shall review the scheme as these funds become exhausted, or at any other time at its discretion.

Proposed - Robert Powell
Seconded - Martin Callow

- To grant approval of a provision of £800 per annum to reimburse members' reasonable expenses when supporting checkpoints on events not organised by the Dorset Group. Events qualifying for reimbursement shall be pre-approved by the committee. The contribution from Dorset Group funds shall have regard to any donation received from another group. Expenditure shall be monitored by the committee and the committee shall review the scheme as these funds become exhausted, or at any other time at its discretion.

Proposed - Robert Powell
Seconded - Martin Callow

- That the Treasurer report annually on the above items to the AGM through the group accounts.

Proposed - Robert Powell
Seconded - Martin Callow

- To grant approval to rename the 2021 Dorset Duddle 'The Bill Peach Dorset Duddle' and gift the event surplus to Bill's nominated cancer charity,

Cancer Research UK. Should the event fail to make a surplus of least of £500, or should the event be cancelled, the group will make up the shortfall from group funds.

Proposed - Anne Brown
Seconded - Chris Pitt

- To grant approval to remove the current levy charged to non-LDWA members who enter Dorset Group challenge events (equivalent to half of the annual membership fee) and replace it with a flat £10 charge on top of the members' entry fee. After each event and subject to the approval of the committee, £5 of each non-member's entry fee would then be donated to the National IT Development Fund.

Proposed - Chris Pitt
Seconded - Martin Callow

RL queried whether the additional £10 charge would be applied to non-members entering the Cerne Giant anytime event and, subject to committee approval at the time, it was suggested that this would not be the case.

10. Nominations for consideration at the AGM

PC stated that no nominations for the committee, other than those put forward at the last committee meeting (9 Sep), had been received from the membership to date. In addition, no one had expressed an interest in becoming Group Chair. There was some discussion regarding the possibility of nominations arising on the day at the AGM.

11. Walk Leader of the Year Award

AB asked for, and received, the committee's approval to order an enamel mug, costing £14 plus postage, to be awarded to the Walk Leader of the Year.

12. Arrangements for AGM via Zoom

CP said he had set up and paid for the group's Zoom account and registered it to the Chair's email address. He will send a link to a 'test' meeting on Saturday 7 Nov between 7.00 - 8.00 pm, for the purpose of checking that those wishing to join the AGM on the following day will be able to do so. The same link will be used for both meetings.

In the final email detailing arrangements for the online AGM, members will be asked to confirm whether they intend to join the AGM.

There was some discussion of the method to be used for recording who is joining the AGM and checking their membership of the group. CP said that members would be asked to sign in using their full names, so they could be identified more easily.

13. New Dorset LDWA logo

CP agreed to send to PC the information to go out to members regarding the options and voting procedure for the new logo. It had been agreed previously, that members would be invited to vote for a first and second choice, with the winning design being that which received the greatest number of votes overall. In the event of a tie, the winner would be the design which received the highest number of first choice votes.

Action: CP

RP agreed to receive the members' votes at the Group Treasurer's email address and record the number for each design. It was agreed that the result would be announced at the AGM. As some of the designs submitted incorporate the national logo, AB said she would check with the NEC that they have no objection to this.

Action: AB

14. Inviting John Ponsford to a committee meeting to discuss equipment management for future events and inventory

The committee acknowledged that prior to the Covid lockdown John Ponsford had expressed an interest in managing the equipment for the group and was hoping to come to a committee meeting to discuss the details. This had not happened, due to the committee meetings moving online in April 2020. It was therefore agreed that PC will invite him to the next online committee meeting and CP will arrange his access to Dropbox, so that he can manage the equipment inventory.

Action: PC and CP

15. Air ambulance donation

The committee discussed a suggestion from Robin Britton that a donation should be made to the Somerset and Dorset Air Ambulance, following their involvement with the incident on 30 Aug 2020. It was agreed that we, the Dorset group, would look to support this charity in the future, as we had made a recent donation of £591.46, following the cancellation of the Cerne Giant 2020. CP agreed to respond to Robin with this information.

Action: CP

16. Date of the next committee meeting

It was agreed to meet online at 7pm on 3 Dec 2020

17. AOB

CP raised the issue of whether non-members should be allowed to join Dorset Group social walks. AB confirmed that they are now allowed to do so and that this is stated on the website.

Diary of Events

8 Nov 2020 Group AGM (online)

3 Dec 2020 Committee meeting (online)

1 Mar - 5 Apr 2021 Cerne Giant 'anytime challenge'

17-18 Apr 2021 Wellington Boot (Dorset Group running a checkpoint)

29-31 May 2021 Sir Fynwy 100 (Dorset Group running a checkpoint)

22 Aug 2021 Dorset Duddle