

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
DORSET GROUP
COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Meeting, online, Thursday 5 August 2021 7.00 pm (draft)

Committee members present:

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

1. Chairman's welcome

CP welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Richard Lang (RL).

3. Matters arising from the online meeting 3 Jun 2021

PC mentioned the open meeting, proposed for Jul 2021, which had not taken place. It was agreed to discuss this in AOB at the end of the meeting.

4. Approval of the minutes for the meeting 3 Jun 2021

The minutes were approved.

5. Treasurer's report

RP had sent the report to the other committee members prior to the meeting. It stated:

- The Group bank account statement for the period ending 21 July 2021 shows a balance of £10,553.36. Having regard to cheques written since, the bank account balance as of 2 August was £10,041.80.
- A donation of £500 was made to Cancer Research UK in respect of Bill Peach. A letter of thanks has been received from Cancer Research UK. Sue Peach has been informed of this through Deirdre Flegg.
- Expenditure on five breakfasts on the summer Solstice walk was £28.45 (2020: £nil), at an average of £5.69 each.
- The Cerne Giant Anytime Challenge resulted in a surplus of £150.24. Income for the event was £161.80 and expenditure on certificates etc. was £11.56.

6. Social walks programme

AB said there had been 11 social walks in the last 9 weeks, since our meeting in June, and there are 6 more planned before mid-September. She added that the majority of mid-week walks are no longer official LDWA walks.

With regard to the number of members coming on walks AB said that walks had been less well supported than in the past, but she felt numbers would build. She said some leaders were continuing to restrict the number they would take, possibly due to not wanting to complete a risk assessment but this was now optional in any case.

AB said she is planning more walks for new comers to the group and that she will email the details to the new members and add them to the website, when finalised.

7. The inclusion of children on social walks

Background: This subject had been included on the agenda because a request had been made to bring a child, who is a LDWA family member, on a social walk and the leader involved had asked for clarification regarding the group's policy.

The committee discussed this and the points made and agreed are summarised below:

- There is nothing in the national LDWA policy to exclude children.
- The LDWA support Ramblers policy of welcoming children, young people under 18 and vulnerable adults on all activities that are suitable for them as individuals, so long as they are accompanied.
- Currently there is no age limit with regard to children coming on walks and possibly this should be raised with the NEC, although age is not necessarily a good indication of an individual's capabilities.
- Parents should be responsible for judging whether their child/children are capable of completing the walk, for looking after their needs on the walk and for having a plan if things don't work out.
- Walk leaders may occasionally feel the terrain or weather forecast for their walk will make it unsuitable for children and this should be discussed with the parents prior to the walk.

It was generally agreed that, given the demographic of our membership and the fact that this has not arisen in the past, demand is likely to be low.

It was agreed that CP and PC would contact those involved to explain our position.

Action: CP and PC

8. The Cerne Giant Anytime Event 2021

Although RL was unable to attend the committee meeting he had sent in the following information by email:

There were 74 entries in total, 41 of whom submitted a result. 19 entrants paid for a posted certificate and RL has sent out certificates to the 11 of them who have submitted their results.

9. Challenge Events in 2022 and beyond

- The Cerne Giant 2022

MC stated that if this event is to go ahead in the March 2022, a small group of volunteers is needed to lead on organising it, with individuals willing to take on key roles. There was doubt among the committee membership whether such a group, with the necessary skills, could be found at present. After some discussion regarding the time frame for going ahead, it was agreed to leave a formal decision to the AGM, where the event could be discussed with the membership.

The subject of running another anytime challenge, with a different route from that of the Cerne Giant, was briefly considered and CP agreed to contact RL for his thoughts on this option.

Action: CP

- The Dorset Duddle 2022

PC suggested this might be an easier event to organise, as the Group's first challenge event following the pandemic, because it had been run so many times in the past. This was discussed, with the main drawback being that this is a linear event, which therefore requires transport. CP pointed out that the booking of All Saints Church Hall in Swanage, for use as the HQ, had been carried forward from previous years to Aug 2022. He said he was willing to lead on the organisation, if a team could be put together at the AGM.

- The Dorset Giant 2023

It was agreed that for this to go ahead a decision would need to be made at the AGM and planning started as soon as possible.

An email from Gwyneth Littlejohn saying that the Bristol and West Group had cancelled the Wye Forest 50 and were unlikely to run it again, was acknowledged and PC agreed to thank her for letting us know.

Action PC

10. LDWA 50 Year Anniversary

Background: An email has been received from the National Local Groups Secretary (Karen Pickersgill) regarding the anniversary in 2022, in which she asks us to let

her know how our group would be celebrating. The plan is for details from all the local groups be included in a national calendar of events.

Ideas were briefly discussed before it was agreed that the group membership should be asked for their ideas. PC agreed to send out an email and to collect suggestions before the next committee meeting, on 7 Oct. The point was made that any member wishing to suggest an event should also be willing to help organise it.

Action: PC

11. Local groups representative weekend 12-14 Nov 2021

When asked by CP, no committee member(s) present expressed a wish to go on this weekend, which is being hosted by the West Yorkshire Group at Haworth Youth Hostel.

AB said that it was disappointing that no feedback had been given to the membership following the online weekend last year. The committee had been waiting for some national feedback, but none had been received.

CP said that he feels it is important for our group to be represented and that he will ask Richard and Tracey Lang if they are interested in going. PC reminded the committee that the deadline for booking a place is 13 August 2021.

Action: CP

12. The AGM

There was some discussion as to whether the AGM should be held online, once again, or whether to get members together at a venue, as in the past. CP asked the committee members how they would feel about a face to face meeting and AB said she could join remotely, if she was not comfortable about being present. A number of possible venues and food options were discussed and it was agreed that CP would make enquires about booking the town hall in Wareham and having fish and chips supplied by a local shop.

Action: CP

13. Date of the next committee meeting 7 Oct 2021

The date of the next online meeting was confirmed as 7 Oct 2021.

14. AOB

- The committee agreed that condolences should be sent on behalf of the group to Madeleine Hemsley, on the death of her husband, Graham Hemsley. Graham was one of the founding members of our group.

Action: CP

- A request from Colin Utting for a contribution from group funds, towards the trip to Snowdonia this September, was discussed. It was agreed to make a donation of £400, leaving it up to Colin how he will use it to benefit those going. RP agreed to let Colin know and make the contribution.

Action: RP

It was also agreed that details of the trip should be added to Dorset LDWA website.

Action: RL

- With regard to the purchase of a new sail banner it was agreed that there is no urgency to doing this at present.
- The open meeting, originally proposed for July 2021, was considered again. Members of the committee are in agreement that this is needed in order to discuss the future of the group with the membership, in the hope that new ideas and enthusiasm can be generated. A date of 14 Sep 2021 was considered as a possibility and AB said she would check with Colin Utting if that would be convenient for him to give some feedback about the Snowdonia trip in 2020.

Action: AB

Diary of Events

23 -27 Sep 2021 Group trip to Snowdonia

7 Oct 2021 committee meeting (online)

1 Nov 2021 possible additional committee meeting (online)

28 Nov 2021 Dorset group AGM