

LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
DORSET GROUP
COMMITTEE MEETING

Committee Meeting, online, Thursday 3 December 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)

Non-committee members present:

John Ponsford (JP)
Rachel Christopher (RC)

1. Chairman's welcome

CP welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially John Ponsford and Rachel Christopher. He then invited them both to join the committee. Rachel agreed to do so and a motion was raised and a vote taken.

Motion: To co-opt Rachel Christopher on to the committee.
Proposed: Ian Brown
Seconded: Robert Powell

The motion was passed unanimously.

2. Apologies for absence

There were no apologies, all committee members were present.

3. Approval of the minutes of and matters arising from the meeting 2 Oct 2020

The minutes of the meetings held on 2 Oct 2020 were approved.

There were no matters arising.

4. Matters arising from the AGM

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

5. Treasurer's report

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

- The Group bank account statement for the period ending 21 October 2020 shows a balance of £10,418.36. There have been no transactions in respect of income or expenditure since then and so that is the current balance.
- The anticipated £150 refund from The Fox Inn, Ansty in respect of the AGM meal deposit, has been received and is included in the balance above.
- The group accounts approved at the AGM for the financial year ending 30 September 2020 have been submitted to the NEC treasurer and an acknowledgment received.

6. Social walks programme

AB said that organising the social walks programme had been difficult with the rules, regarding what we are allowed to do, constantly changing. Looking at who is leading walks at present, she said the group had lost 12 regular leaders this year but others were stepping up.

AB went on to say that there is a walk planned every weekend between now and the end of December, with 3 more yet to be finalised, and also a Winter Solstice walk on Mon 21 December. These walks are mainly in the east of the county.

As there have been 30 new members joining the group this year, AB said she had tried organising a walk especially for them, with a mixed response. The walk, which is on 13 December, will be opened up to other group members if the number of new members doesn't increase.

RP congratulated AB on showing initiative and CP thanked her keeping things going.

7. The Cerne Giant Anytime Event

MC said he didn't see himself as leading this event because RL was doing most of the work, amending the website and dealing with SI Entries. MC continued that he and 3 volunteers, Anne Brown, Jan Williams and Alan Mattison, were checking the route on the ground and editing the route description, where needed. He gave some details of the plans for who is checking different parts of the route. The deadline for completing the route description is 22 Feb 2021.

RL said he had been working on the internet side for the event, putting it on the National Challenge Events database and SI Entries, where it will open to entrants on 1 Jan 2021. Completion certificates will be sent out by email and there will be a PDF file containing the results, updated every few days.

There followed some discussion regarding members wishing to do both the 20 and 30 mile routes and it was agreed that they would only be charged one entry fee, if they emailed to request both route descriptions.

MC went on to discuss the arrangements for emailing entrants, firstly to confirm their registration and then to supply a link to the hidden page on the website containing the route description and details of the discounts AB is arranging with local businesses. For entrants registering after 22 Feb 2021 RL will send this information when confirming their entry. All entrants will be advised to check the up to date details, on the hidden website page, before setting out on their walk.

The committee then went on to discuss the article about the event, written by MC, which is currently in Strider. MC had not yet received his copy of Strider and was unaware that this had been stamped as “cancelled”. He said he would get in touch with Graham Smith, the editor of Strider, to find out what had happened. It was agreed that an email will be sent to Dorset group members and those of other groups locally, to make it clear that this is incorrect. MC will draft the email and send it to RL, as events secretary, before distribution via the bulk email system by PC.

Action: MC, RL and PC

RP commented that RL had done a lot of work on this event and CP thanked him for doing so.

8. Sir Fynwy 100 2021 and the Wellington Boot 2021

CP stated that the Wellington Boot has been cancelled and that a decision regarding the 100 is expected in the next couple of weeks. It is possible the 100 will become a virtual event.

9. The Local Groups' Weekend

As the notes from this weekend had not yet been sent out by the NEC, RP proposed postponing this report until the next meeting and it was agreed to do so.

10. Possible changes to the website

RL proposed adding an email archive option to the menu on our website, which would allow everyone to see the emails sent to Dorset Group members, via the bulk email system. He said this would be helpful to members, like himself, who don't always receive the bulk emails. Some other local groups do this and once the change is made all emails will be added automatically. PC said she thought it might be possible to remove individual emails, if necessary.

There followed some discussion regarding possibly sensitive information contained in the emails and it was decided to postpone a decision until the next meeting, allowing time for the emails to be checked for information of this nature.

11. Equipment management for future events and the inventory

Having previously agreed to manage the equipment and inventory for the group, JP said that he had updated the inventory as far as he could, with the information available to him. The committee then discussed the difficulty of keeping track of equipment used for checkpoints on challenge events. Members storing items at

home do not always respond to emails asking for information and there are presently a number of items missing, including several ground sheets and a table. PC said that two of the group's first aid boxes are currently unaccounted for. JP agreed to draft an email to members, to be sent via the bulk email system in January, requesting information on stored items.

Action JP and PC

12. Kit branded with the new Dorset Group logo

AB had previously sent to the other committee members a link to a company called Peco Ltd that several other LDWA groups use, allowing their members to order goods branded with their logo. Once set up, group members can see the range of goods available via a webpage and order them directly from the company, who produce them to order.

After some discussion, it was agreed to go ahead with this and AB said she would ask the company to set it up, but would need a better quality image of the logo to do so. CP agreed to supply this, after obtaining an improved version of the national logo to incorporate into it.

Action: CP

13. Dates of the committee meetings 2021

The following dates were agreed for online committee meetings:

4 February 2021

8 April 2021

3 June 2021

Possible date of the AGM:

28 November 2021

14. AOB

RL reminded the committee of an email he had sent on 27 Nov 2020 proposing a number of minor changes needed to update the website. It was agreed to go ahead with these.

Diary of Events

4 Feb 2021 committee meeting (online)

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

8 Apr 2021 committee meeting (online)

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

3 Jun 2021 committee meeting (online)

Dorset LDWA online committee meeting minutes 3 Dec 2020 (draft)

22 Aug 2021 Dorset Duddle

28 Nov 2021 Dorset group AGM - to be confirmed