

Essex & Herts LDWA Committee Meeting

Monday 15th January 2024, 10.00am, Lorna Doone, Galleywood

Draft notes

Richard Haynes (RH) Peter Tremain (PT) Elaine Oddie (EO) Maggie Stevenson (MS) Ginny Powell (GP) Jackie Burnett (JB) Lizzie Bridge (LB) Brian Martin (BM) Gill Struthers (GS)

1. **Apologies for absence:** None

GS welcomed Jane Skinner as an observer and potential future committee member.

2. **The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2023 were approved.**

Proposed **GP**, Seconded **LB**

3. **Matters arising from previous minutes.**

JB advised that work on a checkpoint guidance document is ongoing and the word 'etiquette' is to be dropped from the title.

Location of checkpoint signage to be reviewed following an entrant failing to find the checkpoint entrance on the recent Stansted Stagger.

First Aid Kits have been replaced.

Our bid for funding from the Martyn Greaves fund was successful and several of the items have been purchased and delivered.

The meeting discussed whether to apply for a further grant for our 50th Anniversary. **GS** to take this forward.

JB British Heart Foundation CPR training has been promoted in an email update

JB has added a link to HF holidays to our website.

Essex & Herts Constitution - moved to main agenda

4. **Financial Report.**

EO presented the financial report which will be presented for approval at the AGM. The group's financial position is in good shape and GS proposed a vote of thanks to EO who is moving on to stand for election as National Treasurer

Funding for Food Hygiene courses is available and a link to the training will be included in the Checkpoint Guidance document. (**JB**)

5. **Social Walks.**

- There are several gaps in the social walk calendar, more walks, and leaders, are required.
- Dates were set for The Herts Hobble (June 23rd) and The Stansted Stagger (January 5th 2025)
- 32 people have registered for the Away Weekend in South Wales. South Wales group are leading two walks of varying length on the Saturday.

- **LB** asked for suggestions as to venue for the 2025 Away Weekend.

6. Challenge Event updates

- **Stansted Stagger 2024** awaiting final financial results. A very successful event, helped by the weather. Plenty of appreciative feedback.
The Hall for the **2025 Stagger** is booked, despite some concern about the state of the kitchen.
- **Essex Walker – PT** reported that all the halls had been booked with the event HQ at Galleywood. 17 & 27 mile routes written and 17 mile route checked. The 17 mile route description will include a question in lieu of a virtual clip to ensure entrants follow the correct route.
JB to source badges for this event and more badges for the Herts Hobble.
- **Herts Hobble – RH** reported that Tesco car park is booked, room for <100 cars approx. so car sharing will be encouraged. There is no parking at the Scout Hut (start& finish). Halls at Wallington and Gravely are booked and waiting to hear back from Ardeley
- **Blackwater Marathon 2025** (nb this will be the 25th event) Kent LDWA are reviewing their challenges walk programme, running an event in the autumn to replace the White Cliffs events. GS will reply to Peter Jull's email asking them to avoid our biennial Blackwater Marathon
- **Winter Poppyline** – we need more info. regarding opening times and refreshments **JB** to contact Jayne .
- **2024 Speyside 100** –we will not be running a CP on this event
- **2025 Flower of Suffolk 100** – Essex & Herts have been asked to man CP7 at Knodishall at 49.5 miles into the walk as well as an independent kit check. GS has volunteered to coordinate the latter but a volunteer will be needed to coordinate the Knodishall CP.
- **2026 Hunnypot 100** - to be run by Kent Group. We've provisionally been allocated a CP at Cowden
- **2027 100** will be in Devon: We will need to decide whether to offer to run a checkpoint.

7. Health and Safety (standing item)

- No problems reported
- Defibrillator – Finish Line Fund have offered to supply us with a portable Defib. **JB** to contact them.
- Dolores donation: In appreciation of the help she received following her accident, Dolores has sent a donation of £100 towards replacement of foil blankets and survival bags.
LB to contact Yorks about replacing survival bags they used.
RH to source some good quality bags as standard equipment for CPs and sweepers.

GS to thank Dolores.

8. **Essex and Herts 50th Anniversary:** update on plans for 2025

- The following 'ideas' to be discussed at the AGM.
 1. AGM to be held on Sunday 23rd February (exact 50th anniversary) - venue to be decided.
Format - Meeting followed by walk or meeting followed by lunch/ tea with cake.
 2. Essex & Herts 'Golden Fifty' challenge event . Possibly July? Route to include both counties. **PT** suggested elements of two previous Stansted Stagger routes. Special golden fifty badge.
 3. Commemorative gifts - neck warmers / mugs?
 4. Rerun - St Peter's Way In A Day. August BH weekend - funded by group
 5. Maldon Millennium Walk plus tea on a barge or similar (subsidised)
 6. Walks elsewhere plus train or boat ride?
 7. Re-run some favourite social walks from the decades
 8. The usual challenge walks - Stagger, Hobble, Blackwater - special badges or certificates?
 9. Summer Walks Day - including non-walkers tea. Possibly June or early August? To avoid the 50 mile walk and SPW
 10. Special Secret Santa?
 11. Suggested subsidy budget- up to £5,000

9. **Essex and Herts AGM and constitution**

- Revised Constitution to be presented at the AGM. **JB** to produce agenda.
- Committee nominations

Chair – Kirsteen Newell, proposed **GS**. Seconded **GP**.

Treasurer – **MS** proposed **EO**. Seconded **JB**

Minutes Secretary – Jane Skinner, proposed **PT**. Seconded **RH**.

Secretary – We still need to fill the Secretary position on our committee and **GS** will write out one final time to members in an attempt to receive a nomination before the AGM.

Failing this, the committee will consider contingency plans as discussed, which would probably involve JB retaining the position for a defined length of time in a reduced capacity to enable her to concentrate on her IT and Social Media role.

Any Other Business

- **EO**: the NEC have updated the insurance guidance for challenge events. **EO** to add a note to the E&H expenses guidance notes re checking personal car insurance
- **EO** suggested that, at the next committee meeting, we discuss the possibility of hiring a storage unit for our equipment to share access and relieve **RH** of sole responsibility,

Date and place of next meeting - Date and venue to be agreed by the new committee following the AGM