



HEART OF ENGLAND – LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Agenda for Committee Meeting Agenda 33 Via MS TEAMS internet engagement at 7.00 pm on 28/01/2026.

In attendance:

Chair – Position vacant

Neil Bromley (NB) Deputy Chair
Michael Buckley (MB) Membership Secretary
Robin
Richmond (RR) Data Officer

David Hood (DH) Group Secretary
Rupert Connolly (RC) Property Officer
Yvonne Court (YC) Treasurer
Graham Jones (GJ) Walks Secretary

Apologies:-

Circulation

All above plus Group Membership (and via web site)

Item	Description	Action/Date
33		
33.1	Introductions & apologies	
33.1.1		
33.2	Approval of previous minutes 32 (19th November 2025)	
33.2.1		
33.2.2	Proposed by RR	28/01/26
33.2.3	Seconded by GJ	28/01/26

33.3.	Matters arising (internal or external with Committee)	
33.3.1	DH will investigate our current constitution paperwork. There is as a formal document with the NEC (i.e. on our present website dated 2015) or if amendment is required post this time. Latest update ongoing.	DH
33.3.2	Following points 31.6.1, 31.6.2 & 31.6.3 last meeting. These relate to how we ensure members know about events that are going on in our area and how we can communicate this more effectively. GJ will look at producing a bulletin that will go out, by email, to our members. It appears that 90% of members receive our emails. RR felt that the choices given to new members are out of date from a GDPR perspective and undertook to liaise with Amelia Brereton (NEC Data Analyst) for possible improvements.	Committee RR; GJ; MB
33.3.3	Currently it appears that we haven't been given the details of the members of the old Bristol and West group that have been transferred to the HoE group. Once this has happened the group will look to see how this affects the spread of membership across the increased HoE region. This will then help the walks secretary to encourage walks where our membership are most likely to support them.	DH; RC

33.3.4	The NEC are checking numbers who have moved from Bristol and West, and will make sure that their data appears on our membership lists.	
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33.4	Chairs report (with deputy input)	NB
33.4.1	At the December AGM members were invited to express an interest in being the group Chair(person). Any body interested in this should contact DH - Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	All Members
33.4.2	Thank you to NB for offering to be the temporary chair.	
33.4.3	A big thankyou to Clive Wainwright for all the work you've done as previous Chair.	

33.5	Treasurer's report	YC
33.5.1	Interim accounts see appendix 33.12.1.	
33.5.2	The bank balance stands at £10,374.59 as at 26/01/26. Cash balance £68.95.	
33.5.3	Balance movement in the month includes: Debit Purchase of Equipment HofE £186.95, Audit of 2024/5 accounts £66.00, AGM 2024/5 £206.60, Social Walk £37.65 and Bank Charges £9.98. Debit Purchases and expenses for MMM 2026 £0.00. Debit Purchases and expenses for BCC £662.13. Debit Purchases and expenses for Forest Marathon £351.00.	
33.5.4	Credit SiEntries: MMM £386.00 BCC £312.50 Unavailable Funds: Contingency for event failure £3,600.00. Funds available to for general HofE expenditure: £6843.54	
	Thankyou Yvonne for your very diligent work with the finances.	

33.6	Group Secretary report	DH
33.6.1	MMM (June)- A meeting will happen on the 23rd of Feb. Chris Stockton has sorted out leaders for each checkpoint. Lots of volunteers Needed.	Committee members+
33.6.2	BCC - (Aug) - RC has put all the necessary application documents in. Working on the route descriptions is in process. RC confident in progress Lots of volunteers Needed	All members
33.6.3	100 – Marshals (May) we are still looking for two helpers for this.	All members
33.6.4	100 – Main Event (May) additional helpers will be appreciated.	All members
33.6.5	ACW (April) Thank you to the many HoE members who are helping with this.	All members
33.6.6	Hoe FM (Sept) Lots of volunteers Needed. This is the Heart of England Forest Marathon , which will be resurrected - thanks to RC. A very popular event, particularly with HoE members.	All members
33.6.7	n.b. RC is doing a considerable amount of work to make sure that all these events happen. He is doing this in response to HoE members expressing a wish to seeing these events happen. Please appreciate the work he, and others are doing, and contact him if you would like to offer some help with any of the events.	All members

33.7	Membership Secretary report	MB

33.8	Walk Secretary report	GJ
33.8.1	For the next few months the walks calendar is looking very healthy.	
33.8.2	GJ will be messaging the membership soon to ask for walks in the late spring early summer period. This is traditionally a popular time for challenge walks including the National 100 event, so it might mean that fitting social walks may not be as easy.	
33.8.3	Watch out for two social walks that will cover two sections of the Heart of England Way. They will be circular and involve car parking as public transport looks difficult to incorporate. If these turn out to be popular, then future stages might be treated as linear walks, with transport arranged from carparking to start point.	DH
33.8.4	GJ is scheduled shortly to have a much-needed hip operation. Hopefully this will allow him then to enjoy joining the group on walks again. We're sure that the HoE group wish him the best of health.	All members
33.8.5	A big "Thankyou", to anyone who has acted as a social walk leader over the last few weeks. Thankyou to those who have supported these walks. Keep an eye out on the "Heart of England Members" WhatsApp group for last minute walk information. Some members (Thank you Terry Muckle) offer last minute weekend walks over WhatsApp. Contact DH - Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk with a name and phone number if you would like to be included in this WhatsApp group.	All members

33.9	Equipment Officer report	RC
33.9.1	Bought a colour laser printer and "Tyvec" paper to produce tally cards for events./Social walks Registers/etc	
33.9.2	RC would like to thank Michael Jones for offering some storage space for HoE equipment. He (RC) will be looking at what might be the most appropriate things to store.	

33.10	Data Protection Officer report	RR
33.10.1	GDPR The GDPR User Guide appears to have been comprehensively rewritten (issued in November 2025 but only discovered this week). It would be helpful if the NEC notified Local Groups when updated policy documents are published. A review of the changes will be necessary before a new Annual GDPR Checklist can be issued. There are still inconsistencies between the GDPR User Guide and the Social Walk Registration documents which are being worked through to achieve greater consistency and simplicity for Local Group operations. Proposal: HoE's GDPR declaration is not paused for another year and recommences on the current basis (details sent out to all committee members). Hopefully, HoE can move forward to a stable position next year. NEC engagement Engagement at the Local Groups weekend was useful with various tasks and points raised all received favourably & acknowledged. Many issues are in abeyance to state here, but the HoE Committee will pursue in the new year. Further correspondence is needed in due course, but in general progress is being made. Ongoing.	All members All members RR GJ and RR (for time being)

	The NEC confirmed at the Local Groups Weekend that two LG representatives may attend the regular Zoom meetings, which makes possible the direct input of specialist knowledge. Also confirmed that one representative at the LGW is paid for by the LDWA and a second may attend paid for by the LG. Engagement with NEC to be moved into an additional minute item, and the scope of attendance at these meetings to be widened.	All members

33.11	Any other business	
33.11.1	It was noted that recent social walks have been particularly well supported when they take place in the Coventry/ North Warwickshire areas.	
33.11.2	The HoE has had the 2029 National 100 approved. It will go between the Cotswolds and the Malverns.	RR; DH; AW; GJ
33.12	Appendices	

Next meeting 25th Feb 2026

Appendix 33.12.1

Heart of England Accounts to 26/01/26

	BANK		
BANK BALANCE 30/09/25		£11,196.40	
Credit since 30/09/25		£698.50	
Sub total credit		£11,894.90	
Debit since 30/09/25		£1,520.31	
Sub total debits		£1,520.31	
BANK BALANCE 26/01/26		£10,374.59	£0.00
	CASH		
Cash held 30/09/25	£	68.95	
Cash income since 30/09/25	£	-	
Cash debit since 30/09/25		£0.00	
CASH BALANCE HELD 26/01/26		£68.95	
TOTAL GROUP BANK AND CASH BALANCE 26/01/26		£10,443.54	
Note to accounts			
Provision for failure of event		£3,600.00	