



HEART OF ENGLAND – LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION

Agenda for Committee Meeting Agenda 34 Via MS TEAMS internet engagement at 7.00 pm on 25/02/2026.

Meeting chaired and minutes taken by David Hood.

In attendance:

Chair – Position vacant

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:-

Neil Bromley (NB) Deputy Chair

Circulation

All above plus Group Membership (and via web site)

Item	Description	Action/Date
34	Meeting Leader	
34.1	Introductions & apologies	
34.1.1	Neil Bromley.	
34.2	Approval of previous minutes 33 (28th January 2026)	
34.2.1		
34.2.2	Proposed by GJ	
34.2.3	Seconded by RC	

34.3.	Matters arising (internal or external with Committee)	
34.3.1	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
34.3.2	Following point 33.3.2 of the last meeting. (This relates 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 RR felt that the choices given to new members are out of date from a GDPR perspective and undertook to liaise with Amelia Brereton (NEC Data Analyst) for possible improvements. GJ has looked at the type of bulletins issued by other groups. He has a plan to launch a bulletin in the next month. This might involve using Whatsapp.	Committee RR; GJ; MB
34.3.3	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. We believe that the issue is being chased up this week by the	DH; RC

	National committee.	
34.3.4	The NEC are checking numbers who have moved from Bristol and West, and will make sure that their data appears on our membership lists.	Info

34.4	Chairs report (with deputy input)	NB
34.4.1	At the December AGM members were invited to express an interest in being the group Chair(person). Anybody interested in this should contact DH - Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	All Members
34.5	<u>NEC Engagement – HoE Representatives Report</u>	
34.5.1	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. Starting next month this section of the minutes will include feedback of items discussed at the various meetings attended, and proposed HoE follow up actions. All members will be invited to add to the debate and raise any other items of interest that they may wish to have shared with the NEC by emailing the Chair at heartofengland.chair@ldwa.org.uk or by posting on the HoE WhatsApp Group. Feedback that is most likely to be of interest to members will also be posted on the HoE WhatsApp group.	Info RR

34.6	Treasurer's report	YC
34.6.1	Interim accounts see appendix 34.13.1.	Info
34.6.2	The bank balance stands at £11,036.60 as at 23/02/26. Cash balance £68.95	Info
34.6.3	Balance movement in the month includes: Bank Charges £4.99. Credit SiEntries: MMM £412.00 BCC £255.00 Unavailable Funds: Contingency for event failure £3,600.00. Funds available to for general HofE expenditure: £7,505.55	Info
34.6.4	YC has found that there are regularly spam requests for money. When asking for expenses, be prepared for a check to be made. Quite often it's a good idea to use YC's private Email address. DO NOT share this Email address with anyone else.	Info

34.7	Group Secretary report	DH
34.7.1	MMM (June)- A meeting happened on the 23rd of Feb. Meeting has happened, and a lot of actions have been identified. A request has now gone out on WhatsApp for people to volunteer as marshals. Please let DH - Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk know if you can help. Please understand that requests for any particular role, will not be considered. The organisers will ultimately decide where volunteers can be most effectively used.	All Members
34.7.2	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 . RC identified three actions that needs to be worked on. 1. Approval from the Canal and River Trust. 2. Route descriptions need to be updated. 3. Having 3 different distances seems to be generating extra interest in the event.	All Members.
34.7.3	100 – Marshals (2 nd to 4 th of May) We are still looking for two helpers for this.	All Members
34.7.4	100 – Main Event (23 rd to 25 th of May) additional helpers will be appreciated. RC will be setting up a WhatsApp group for the volunteers at this checkpoint.	All Members RC
34.7.5	ACW (April) Thank you to the many HoE members who are helping with this.	All Members
34.7.6	Hoe Forest Marathon (FM) (Sept) A FM webpage has now been set up. RC brought the committee up to date with the plans for this. • SiEntries are being sorted out • Simon Pipe is working with other HoE Forest people to set up the route. The route will be able to use much more of the forest with on the day access to areas that are not normally open. The route will be a marathon distance. • A web page is already open on the HoE website. RC is about to gain administrator access to this. • Further details were also given. Keep an eye out on updates to the Forest Marathon page for more developments.	RC
34.7.7	DH and RC have received the Hunnypot 100 checkpoint documents from Catherine Waters. RC has replied to Peter Jull to confirm that we can supply all the equipment that they want us to provide. He has also had correspondence over the catering.	Info
34.7.8	Changes should have happened to NB's Emails so that he can now receive the Chair emails. heartofengland.chair@ldwa.org.uk	Info
34.7.9	RC should now have access to full editing rights on the HoE website.	Info
34.7.10	The Jurrassic 100 organisers have contacted us. It will start and finish in Axminster. Our contact is Gillian Eckinwell.	Info
34.7.11	DH has updated the website and photos. If walk leaders could ensure that some photos of their walks are available to DH, this can be through WhatsApp, then these will be added. A gpx file of the walk would also be appreciated.	Info
34.7.12	Michael Jones has been in conversation with RC and is offering to organise a Bear and Bull 50 event. (BB50)	Info
34.7.13	DH has sent our full AGM minutes to the NEC (sent 19 th Feb 2026)	Info

34.8	Membership Secretary report	MB
34.8.1	Currently the HoE membership stands at 528 members.	Info
34.8.2	Of the new members who have joined since Christmas, it seems that only 80% have opted to receive Emails.	Info

34.9	Walk Secretary report	GJ
34.9.1	Calendar of walks is looking good. Please contact GJ if you would like to add a walk.	All members
34.9.3	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
34.9.4	Developments on GJ's health. Operation is scheduled. Hoping to be more active around July.	Info
34.9.5	A big "Thankyou", to anyone who has acted as a social walk leader over the last few weeks. Thank you 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.	Info
	Thank you, Graham, (Walk Secretary) for the fantastic work you are doing to provide an active set of social walks.	

34.10	Equipment Officer report	RC
34.10.1	Nothing bought or sold.	Info
34.10.2	RC has a lazer printer for producing HoE paperwork. DH has requested that Tally Cards for the MMM be printed on waterproof card with this printer.	Info
34.10.3	RC has sorted out the equipment needed for the HoE Hunny Pot checkpoint.	Info

34.11	Data Protection Officer report	RR
34.11.1	<u>GDPR</u> HoE's GDPR declaration for 2024 was paused pending the issue of a new GDPR User Guide. However, the new version appears to have been comprehensively rewritten, and the NEC have been asked to provide a Word 'tracked changes' document to enable HoE to update its internal processes to match. In the meantime, the 2025 declaration will recommence on the basis of the old version. Seven declarations have been received, and a further one is required for completion. Clarification has been requested on three declarations to facilitate HoE's declaration. Thanks to all for the work done so far. Hopefully, HoE can move forward to a stable position in 2026. <u>Heart of Engand Forest</u> This event is being resurrected with the support of The Heart of England Forest charity. The charity has asked if it can use LDWA data to promote its work in newspapers and other media outlets. Under the LDWA's GDPR User Guide this would not appear to be possible. It may be possible to facilitate this request if it's GDPR policy can be used in some way. Alternatively, the NEC may be able to give permission in	RR + selected other committee members RC, RR

	response to individual requests. The NEC will be consulted for a definitive ruling. <u>Analysis of LDWA for HoE's Use</u> The new version of the GDPR User Guide confirms that Local Groups should not download LDWA data to produce reports locally. Instead, they should request a report from the LDWA Data Analyst (dataanalyst@ldwa.org.uk) who will produce it from the LDWA's membership database. For the exact wording see Section 6 Data Accuracy, including a case study example, of the Data Protection and Privacy Use Guide Nov 2025 in the toolkit under Data Protection (GDPR) This seems unnecessarily bureaucratic and HoE will ask the NEC if this restriction can be relaxed. RR asked for thoughts from other committee members to inform a request to the NEC.	All Members
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34.12	Any other business	
34.12.1	RC told the committee that the Heart of England 100 in 2029 is progressing. Currently the priority is to find a HQ and then a better idea of route and name for the event can be considered.	Info
34.12.2	There will be at least four representatives from the HoE group going to the National AGM in Maidstone.	Info
34.13	Appendices	

Next meeting:- Wednesday 22nd April 2026

Appendix 34.13.1

Heart of England Accounts to 23/02/26

	BANK		
BANK BALANCE 26/01/26		£10,374.59	
Credit since 26/01/26		£667.00	
Sub total credit		£11,041.59	
Debit since 26/01/26		£4.99	
Sub total debits		£4.99	
BANK BALANCE 26/01/26		£11,036.60	£0.00
	CASH		
Cash held 26/01/26	£	68.95	
Cash income since 26/01/26	£	-	
Cash debit since 26/01/26		£0.00	
CASH BALANCE HELD 23/02/26		£68.95	
TOTAL GROUP BANK AND CASH BALANCE 23/02/26		£11,105.55	
Note to accounts			
Provision for failure of event		£3,600.00	
Total Funds Available		£7,505.55	