



HEART OF ENGLAND – LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION
Minutes of Committee Meeting 30 Via MS TEAMS internet engagement
at 7.00 pm on 20/08/2025.

In attendance:

Clive Wainwright (CW) Chair * *minutes taker*
 Neil Bromley (NB) Deputy Chair
 Graham Jones (GJ) Walks Secretary
 Robin Richmond (RR) Data Officer

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

Apologies:-

Michael Buckley (MB) Membership Secretary

Circulation

All above plus Group Membership (and via web site)

Legend - Abbreviations:- BCC = Birmingham Canal Canter Event 3rd August 2025

Item	Description	Action/date
30	* meeting deferred from 13th August	
30.1.	Introductions & apologies	
30.1.1.	none required	Note
30.2.	Approval of previous minutes 29 (18th June 2025)	
30.2.1.	none required	Note
30.2.2.	Proposed by GJ	Note
30.2.3.	Seconded by NB	Note
30.3.	Matters arising (internal or external with Committee)	
30.3.1.	BCC - A successful running of event & praise to all involved, specifically to RC for management & the Connolly household. • RC and lessons learnt: - Good start & timing with everyone together - checkpoints all worked well. Noting routing likely to be different next year with making it a 30 mile event (for anniversary reasons 30.3.4) & all checkpoints other than HQ being outdoors. Event distances on offer are likely to be 30, 26 & 18 miles for entrants. • Food management on catering to be reviewed at HQ. • Menu to be simplified for next year. • Washing up procedure to be challenged at HQ. In general all good , could always do with a few extra volunteers to spread peoples tasks. A donation likely to be given to the Canal Trust, once finances finalised. Review also with the NEC on contributions.	All Note RC

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	Any medical recorded incidents on the day, to follow all GDPR requirements & are held up to 7 years maximum in paper format. DH will set up a direct issue to the NEC treasurer for any records collected.	DH
30.3.2.	Praise given to website (DH) for updating the website with photos & information from recent events. BCC results to be advised when finalised.	All Note
30.3.3	Needs website updating for ACW in challenge walks section & possibly the 'Hallow' event - all promoting HoE area events.	DH & IK
30.3.4	Noting our 30th Anniversary of our HoE Group is next year, discussion/consideration for a special walk to be put on within the year was discussed. The outcome with other calendar events throughout the year taking place led the Committee to make the BCC our anniversary event with an extended different route of 30 miles. It may well be that the Committee develops a separate weekend away somewhere as well. Any additional first thoughts of trying to organise a 50 miler in our area to be reconsidered for 2027.	Committee + All Note
30.4.	Chairs report (with deputy input)	CW/NB
30.4.1.	Focus on communication & running Group going forward.	Note
30.4.2.	Consideration of new chair replacement post this year.	All Note
30.4.3	As mentioned in 30.3.4 - Committee thoughts for a weekend away to be considered as something different & usefully using our healthy finances accordingly. Consideration to be aired with members also at this year's AGM.	All Note
30.5.	Treasurer's report	YC
30.5.1.	Interim accounts see appendix 30.12.1	Note
30.5.2	The bank balance stands at £12,480.40 as at 18/08/25. Cash balance £68.95. Balance movement in the month includes: Debit Purchase of Equipment HofE £933.47. Debit Purchases and expenses for MMM £1,369.37. Debit Purchases and expenses for BCC £655.46. Credit SiEntries: MMM £893.06. BCC £3,619.66. Unavailable Funds: Contingency for event failure £3,600.00.	Note

Item	Description	Action/date
	Funds available for general HofE expenditure: £8,949.35.	
30.6.	Group Secretary report	DH
30.6.1	DH has achieved article(s) for 'Strider' magazine. See August addition = many a photo shoot of members & our First aid event taking place. Well done Dave. New direct email addresses for Committee members should all be in place now (as shown on our website). DH has sent off an additional article for 'Strider' on the Malvern Midsummer Marathon, subject to editorial space we (HoE Group) keep our fingers crossed for inclusion. Similar to the BCC monopoly of space for the next edition could be an issue? DH to continue to store any GPX files generated on our social walks for the benefit of members - see our website. DH mentioned the NEC have offered up a list of past walks which could 'disappear' unless resurrected for members in the NEC database in general. As looking at the list, GJ noted from the list there are about three for our area which could be reviewed if we wish to walk/review further for assessment? GJ offered to contact the NEC on the three for further details.	DH All Note Note All Note Note GJ
30.7.	Membership Secretary report	MB
30.7.1.	MB - Membership - Non available at the time, update can be given in next meeting - October	MB Note
30.8.	Walk Secretary report	GJ
30.8.1.	GJ - Members keep looking at the website & as usual any person wishing to undertake a Social walk for the group gratefully received. Support always given by GJ for leadership. Current status seems healthy for the rest of the year now, but we now need any walks for 2026 to be generated, and thus passed on to 'Strider'. Please all members consider putting on a social walk to suit your calendar diary, all gratefully received and support always given in any leadership.	GJ All note
30.8.2	Local Groups meeting which took place on Tuesday 1st July See notes in reporting 30.10.1 to 30.10.3 comment Next Local Groups meeting scheduled for the 14th October.	GJ Note
30.8.3	Local Groups are having their AGM in our area (Leamington 7-9th Nov). Two walks required by HoE members to lead for Saturday 8th. Anne Wade has offered to lead a longer one (8:00am) & Richard/Sally Hicks will develop a shorter one for them. DH/MB to support/help in any outcome.	All Note DH/MB
30.8.4	GJ mentioned old Eric Perks walks he generated in the past (25+years ago) for our area, will be scanned for assessment and a HoE member has kindly offered to walk each one to find out their suitability for revision to the present time.	Note

Item	Description	Action/date
30.9.	Equipment Officer report	RC
30.9.1.	RC - Storage is still an issue. Pursuing Birmingham City Council on a garage arrangement, but they are incredibly slow at responding with their administration. Through review commercial storage elsewhere does not seem viable financially for the Group, still an individual offering a garage space would be ideal for our needs. New equipment not sought at this present time, more appropriate with storage to wait until 2026. Example: A "Start/Finish" banner to be considered.	RC All Note RC
30.10.	Data Protection Officer report	RR
30.10.1	RR - GDPR data obligations as a Group up to date (2023). RR/GJ – Following Local Groups meeting Tuesday 1st July. Feedback - The Social Events guidance was briefly discussed at the meeting. Jim Blakelock (BBN) raised concerns that potential walk leaders may be discouraged by the changes and felt that not everything was necessary or essential. He offered to share BBN's thinking with other Local Groups. HoE had submitted its concerns to the NEC Chair prior to the meeting. This will be a workgroup item for the Local Groups weekend. Agreed to ask BBN for their thinking and offer HoE's in return. RR to facilitate.	Note All Note RR
30.10.2	Feedback from the Local Group's zoom meeting (1 Jul 2025). Updated GDPR Policy, User Guide, and Annual Declaration documents were issued for comments. No responses on content were made at the meeting suggesting that Local Groups, other than HoE, have not really engaged with GDPR requirements. Note that the NEC did not ask for declarations for 2023. Andrew Beck (Thames Valley) suggested that reporting on a calendar year basis was too difficult, and it should be done in line with each Local Group's AGM timing. This would result in the annual declarations covering different periods of time, which may present difficulties for the NEC. HoE had made a comprehensive input before the meeting designed to simplify the User Guide and make it easier to use, drawing on its concerns about the Social Events guidance. The NEC Chair committed to having an off-line meeting with HoE to discuss its input, and go back to the Local Groups' zoom meeting if there were major changes. RR to follow up. Preparation of the 2024 Annual Declaration remains suspended as agreed by the NEC.	All Note RR Note
30.10.3	Feedback from the Local Group's zoom meeting (1 Jul 2025). Penny Southern (NEC Volunteer Support Officer and Kent) introduced an item, which was not on the agenda or supported by a paper, on sharing Local Group finances and the use of surpluses, including for volunteer support. Few details were	All Note

Item	Description	Action/date
	shared. HoE welcomes the sharing of good practice and will engage with the NEC to find out more about the proposal and seek undertakings on the independence of Local Group accounts. RR to follow up.	RR
30.11.	Any other business	
30.11.1	Publicity Officer (mentioned through the website) - position vacant - a bonus if an individual is available for the position of.	All Note
30.11.2	MB has booked the day at 'Cookhill' village hall for our AGM location this year as last year - date being 6th December. Only requirement DH has offered his projector CW, to undertake a PAT test on equipment.	MB/All Note CW
30.11.3	DH to look into our current constitution paperwork as our formal document with the NEC (i.e. on our present website dated 2015) or if amendment is required post this time.	DH
30.11.4	NB confirmed Colwall village hall has again been booked for the Malvern Midsummer Marathon (20th June 2026), subject to up front fees being in place. NB to look into the matter further to pay whenever, inclusive of any car parking arrangement.	NB
30.11.5	A meeting with the 'A Coventry Way' Committee is set for the 23rd Sept. to discuss any support/help required from HoE for next year's event. DH & RC have offered to be in attendance on our behalf. Timing & location + Agenda under separate cover already with them.	Note DH & RC
30.11.6	Meeting closed at 9.05 pm – next meeting date, 15th October 2025 - using MS Teams. DH to send a link. 7:00 pm start time.	DH
30.12.	Appendices	
30.12.1	Latest on account situation.	Note
	Heart of England LDWA - LDWA - Heart of England Local Group	

Heart of England Accounts to 18/08/25

	BANK	
BANK BALANCE 16/06/25		£10,925.98
Credit since 16/06/25		£4,512.72
Sub total credit		£15,438.70
Debit since 16/06/25		£2,958.30
Sub total debits		£2,958.30
BANK BALANCE 18/08/25		£12,480.40
	CASH	
Cash held 16/06/25		£118.95
Cash income since 16/06/25	£	-
Cash debit since 16/06/25		£50.00
CASH BALANCE HELD 16/06/25		£68.95
TOTAL GROUP BANK AND CASH BALANCE 18/08/25		£12,549.35
Note to accounts		
Provision for failure of event		£3,600.00
Total Funds Available		£8,949.35
NEC Funding to First Aid and HofS		
NEC Grant from MG fund		£565.00
First Aid Training		£656.07
HofE costs First Aid		£91.07
NEC Contribution FofS		£500.00
Expenditure FofS		£619.53
HofE costs FofS		£119.53