



HEART OF ENGLAND (Referred to as HoE in these minutes) – LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION Minutes for Committee Meeting 37
Via MS TEAMS at 7.00 pm on 22/07/2026.

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:-

None

Circulation

All above plus Group Membership (and via web site)

Item	Description	Action/Date
37	Meeting Leader Neil Bromley	
37.1	Introductions & apologies	
37.1.1	Neil Bromley.	
36.2	Approval of previous minutes 36 (27th May 2026)	
37.2.2	Proposed by Robin	
37.2.3	Seconded by Graham Jones	

37.3.	Matters arising (internal or external with Committee)	
37.3.1	Update on - 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 has investigated ways of developing our communications. Once he has recovered from his recent operation, he hopes to be able to send out regular bulletins to inform the membership of upcoming events. There are indications that the percentage of members receiving emails is falling from around 90% to 80%. GDPR allows all members to be sent 'service' emails, e.g. AGM notices but this is not identified. RR to follow up with NEC	GJ RR

37.4	Chairs report (with deputy input)	NB
37.4.1	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 As yet, no-one has shown an interest in putting themselves forward.	To all HoE Members
37.4.3	HoE now has a very stretched geographical area. Previously, any HoE member could access any walk without exceeding a 40-mile journey (request from the last HoE members' survey). Now, for a member at one end of the long axis a 40-mile journey reaches only to the centre of the group's area. HoE have been allocated two thirds of the B&W's total membership and has seen its membership increase by 70% (332). The additional regional 'population' of 1.4m is on top of the 4.1m people in our traditional region. HoE has asked the NEC (National Executive Committee) to work with us in the medium term to re-establish an LDWA group dedicated to the Bristol and Gloucestershire area, whose LDWA members may otherwise think of themselves as something of an 'afterthought' in the regional reorganisation. The Committee are looking to find a suitable venue for our AGM in December, which will be centred in the Gloucestershire area. Perhaps Birdlip or Brockworth, might be a popular choice? DH has asked this question in a recent Email. No opinions have been feedback to him, but the committee are in favour of doing this. The HoE Committee are looking to rotate the AGM location around the enlarged HoE area for future years to balance the needs of all members. If any members can think of another suitable venue, then please contact David Hood Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	
	Thank you Neil for the great work you are doing as Deputy Chairperson.	
37.5	NEC Engagement – HoE Representatives Report	GJ RR
37.5.1	Average LG's surplus is £1,259 and average balance is £7,721. HoE accounts show a surplus less than the average, and a balance after Challenge Event cancellation contingency in line with the average. One group mentioned holding a similar contingency. HoE is well placed to continue improving event quality and matching additional costs with increased revenues. Despite NEC's commitment to consistency LGs now must manage four different privacy statements and a complicated handing of ICE (In Case of Emergency) data for Social Walks. HoE continues to lobby NEC to explore available best practice and a return to earlier simplicity. The HoE Committee welcomes feedback from Marshals and Walk Leaders where NEC requirements impose unnecessary work. All members are 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 here	

37.6	Treasurer's report	YC
37.6.1	Balance movement since the last committee meeting includes: Debits for Bank Charges £9.98, 2 months MMM Expenses £1128.34 BCC Expenses £574.38 Group Expenses: Social Walks £124.65, 12 weeks storage facility £188.04, Email £57.60, Equipment £174.54. Hunnypot 100 Expenses £330.75 Hunnypot 100 Income NEC Contribution £500.00	

	Credit SiEntries: MMM £2402.39, £20.00 OTD entry BCC £2001.25 FM £640.00 Unavailable Funds: Contingency for event failure £3,600.00. Funds available to for general HoFE expenditure: £11,519.06	
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37.7	Group Secretary report	DH
37.7.1	Malvern Midsummer Marathon (MMM) The feedback from participants and helpers were very positive. Some thoughts were shared in the meeting regarding how we manage people who miss check points and the recording of people who are directed, at Black hill, to take the shorter route. The extra water stop at Glynn Brook was a good precaution due to the hot weather, and enforcing people, after the cut-off time to take the shorter route was also a wise precaution. Neil Bromley has booked the Colwall village Hall and the Wyche Institute for the 19th of June 2027. Hopefully all the great helpers from the 2026 event will want to help again. We would love to see lots of new helpers too. Participators in the marshalling is as enjoyable as doing the actual event. Many thanks.	
37.7.2	Birmingham Canal Canter (BCC) - (Aug) The preparations are done, and a great response was received from the request for marshals to help on the event. There are 250 entries. A mass start is being considered. Rupert has done a brilliant job with all the preparations – Thank you	
37.7.3		
37.7.4		
37.7.5	n.b. The heart of England group will be running a checkpoint on the Jurassic 100 next year. Please let the committee know if you would like to help. Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk We will be running the checkpoint at Knowle village hall. This will be at 49.2 miles and will be open between 22:00, Saturday to 09:00 Sunday morning.	
37.7.6	HoE Forest Marathon (FM) (26th Sept) - this is moving forward quickly. Please contact David Hood Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk to volunteer as a marshal. Rupert Connelly has set up a web page, for this event, which can be accessed through the links on the HoE page of the Idwa website. We so far have 100 entries. The intention is to go for a maximum of 200. The final route description and checkpoint details are still to be worked upon.	
37.7.7	David Hood sent out an email appealing for members to help marshal on events. Thankyou to all the members who got in touch. We had a strong response. Further offers will be gratefully received. Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	
37.7.8	RC now has access to full editing rights on the HoE website.	
37.7.9	If any members can suggest ways of improving the website then please contact Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	
37.7.10	The Jurrassic 100 :- See item 36.7.5	
37.7.11	Look at our website to see the latest photos.	
37.7.12	The Severn 100 (a provisional name) – has a separate committee to look after this event. It is proposed to be a HoE event and nearer the time, it will be requesting help from our HoE membership.	
37.7.13	The committee spent some time considering our commitment to hosting this 100 mile event in May 2029.	

	“The Hundred” is an event which is held once a year. The LDWA National Executive Committee (the NEC) look for a regional group, each year to host a hundred event in their area. We currently have the chance to host in 2029.	
37.7.14	The committee, and membership, have been kept up to date with progress in organising the 100. Our chairperson asked to formalise the procedure of supporting the organisation process. He asked the committee three key questions. ONE – Does the committee support the idea of hosting the 100 event? The response was “Yes”. TWO – Do the committee support RC and DH to be the people who take the process forward? The response was again yes. It’s recognised that most of the process will be done separately from the HoE committee, but there will continue to be reporting to it. THREE – Where should the route cover? RC and DH have already secured, provisionally, a Head Quarter’s at Tewkesbury Academy. Other venues were contacted across Worcestershire and Gloucestershire but none have responded. The provisional route, starting from Tewkesbury would lend itself well to a figure of eight route with the North Cotswolds being in the first loop and the Malvern Hills in the second loop. This route was demonstrated to the committee. It has already been shown to the “100’s Co-Ordinator”, Anne Wade, who has shown approval for the planning so far. The committee made a formal proposal to support this event.	

37.8	Membership Secretary report	MB
37.8.1	HoE membership has increased by 332 (around 70%) since the transfer of Gloucestershire and Bristol members from Bristol and West (two thirds of their total). We hope that with the increased membership, we get greater participation from members being helpers on events.	Info
37.8.2	Of the new members who have joined since Christmas, it seems that only 80% have opted to receive emails. This is around 10%pts less than historic levels	Info

37.9	Walk Secretary report	GJ
37.9.3	We have spaces for walks from October onwards. It would be lovely to see our members in Gloucester and Bristol look to offer some walks. We would love to see all the new members who are now part of HoE and of course we would love to see all of the rest of you too! https://ldwa.org.uk/HeartOfEngland/E/0/our-walks.htm	DH

37.10	Equipment Officer report	RC
37.10.1	Nothing new to report	
37.10.2		

37.11	Data Protection Officer report	RR
37.11.1	The 2026 declaration will be based on the latest version of the GDPR User Guide. It will be necessary to go through the text line by line since there is no Word 'tracked changes' document available to enable HoE to update its internal processes easily. The NEC have agreed to provide this for future policy document changes. The NEC have now asked for GDPR declarations to be submitted within 45 days of LG's AGMs. Given that the HoE's AGM is held in December, before the Christmas break, the NEC will be advised that our submission date will be end of February which will be approximately 45 working days after the AGM.	All Members RR
37.11.2	A revised privacy notice and media permissions have been developed and approved by the NEC for The Heart of England Forest (HoEF) event which is being run with the support of the HoEF charity. An agreement form will be submitted to the charity for signature.	RC
37.11.3	The new version of the GDPR User Guide confirms that Local Groups should not download LDWA data to produce reports locally and should request a report from the LDWA Data Analyst. HoE's view is that for HoE primary or associate member analysis, this process would seem to create an unwarranted delay due to availability of the analyst, possible refinement of requests, and any new questions arising. The Acting Chair has written to the NEC Chair asking whether the constraints in the GDPR User Guide can be relaxed which would be a great help to the understanding of our recent 'inheritance' and to planning a programme of activities as likely to appeal to members in Coventry as it does in Clevedon! A response is awaited.	NB
37.11.4	The Acting Chair had agreed to request four FOC mailbox licences (free) and purchase one BB licence (includes mailbox) at £86.40 for evaluation to meet the deadline timing. A request has been submitted and unfortunately there has been some confusion over the purchase licence which needs to be resolved. Licences will be withdrawn if they are not used so it is recommended that all mailboxes are setup/used as soon as possible.	RR DH

36.12	Any other business	
	David Hood, on behalf of the HoE has sent an Email to the Chair of the Devon and Cornwall group, to express our condolences over the death of Hazel Bound. It was felt that so many of our group had had such positive encounters with her, over so many events, that we should send this message.	

36.13	Appendices	
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Next meeting:- 23th September 2026