



**HEART OF ENGLAND (Referred to as HoE in these minutes) – LONG
DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION Minutes for Committee Meeting 38
Via MS TEAMS at 7.00 pm on 23/09/2026.**

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
38	Meeting Leader Neil Bromley	
38.1	Introductions & apologies	
38.1.1	Neil Bromley.	
38.2	Approval of previous minutes 36 (27th May 2026)	
38.2.2	Proposed by RC	
38.2.3	Seconded by GJ	

38.3.	Matters arising (internal or external with Committee)	
38.3.1	Update on communications suggests that 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

38.4	Chairs report (with deputy input)	NB
38.4.1	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 NB has expressed an interest in taking on the role. Thankfully he has found himself more active in his walking.	To all HoE Members
38.4.3	We have now had a response from the NEC. We would like to see more representation of our new members in the south of the group. Please look to see what is on offer and please feel free to contact the committee if you would like to put on walks.	
38.5	NEC Engagement – HoE Representatives Report	GJ RR
38.5.1	2 nd October there is a groups meeting which GJ will be our group representative. Other members will also be at that meeting.	

38.6	Treasurer's report	YC
38.6.1	The bank balance stands at £16,109.35 as at 21/09/26. Cash balance £68.95. Balance movement since the last committee meeting includes: Debits for Bank Charges £9.98, 2 months MMM Expenses £499.52 BCC Expenses £1550.56 FM Expenses £50.00 Group Expenses: Equipment £525.38. Credit SiEntries: BCC £1948.56 FM £1746.12 Unavailable Funds: Contingency for event failure £3,600.00. Funds available to for general HofE expenditure: £12,578.30	

38.7	Group Secretary report	DH
38.7.1	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 Glynch 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.	

38.7.2	Birmingham Canal Canter (BCC) - This went really well. All expenses are nearly sorted out. RC is calculating a contribution that can be donated to the Canal and Rivers trust.	
38.7.3		
38.7.4		
38.7.5	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.	
38.7.6	HoE Forest Marathon (FM) (26 th Sept) - this has now happened. 179 entries. A very successful and well organised event. Please contact our treasurer to claim any expenses	
38.7.7	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	
38.7.8	RC now has access to full editing rights on the HoE website.	
38.7.9	If any members can suggest ways of improving the website then please contact Heartofengland.secretary@ldwa.org.uk	
38.7.10		
38.7.11	Look at our website to see the latest photos.	
38.7.12	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.	
38.7.13	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.	
38.7.14	There will be a meeting on the 6 th of October where the Committee for the 100 will be formalised.	

38.8	Membership Secretary report	MB
38.8.1	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
38.8.2	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

38.9	Walk Secretary report	GJ
38.9.3	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

38.10	Equipment Officer report	RC
38.10.1	Nothing new to report	
38.10.2		

38.11	Data Protection Officer report	RR
38.11.1	Work is underway on the 2026 declaration which will be based on the latest version of the GDPR User Guide. 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
38.11.2	An agreement form for a revised privacy notice and media permissions approved by the NEC for The Heart of England Forest (HoEF), which reflects LDWA protocols, has been signed and stored in HoE documents. All (Completed)	RC
38.11.3	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. A response to the Acting Chair's request to the NEC Chair asking whether the constraints in the GDPR User Guide can be relaxed in order to reduce unnecessary delays in planning HoE activities for the now greatly enlarged Local Group Area has been received from the Local Groups Secretary. Requires follow up.	NB
38.11.4	Four FOC mailbox licences, and one BB licence (includes mailbox) at £86.40 for evaluation have now been issued for HoE's use. Final invoice not yet received. Requires follow up. RR Licences will be withdrawn if they are not used so it is recommended that all mailboxes are setup/used as soon as possible. NB, DH, YC, GJ, RR [YC to provide details of spam emails being sent to the treasurer's mailbox for notification to the NEC YC] RR will arrange guidance for those who wish to transfer historic emails to the new address to extend the 'corporate memory' (ref. NEC objective). RR Consideration will now be given to the needs/preferences of other Committee members and possible costs. A review document will be prepared in due course	RR DH

38.12	Any other business	

38.13	Appendices	
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Next meeting:- 21st October 2026