



North of Scotland LDWA committee meeting

Tuesday 27th January 2026 7.00pm (on Whatsapp video call)

Attendees: Rikky Beck (RB) Pete Mitchell (PM) Lorna Sproates (LS) Bea Jefferson (BJ) Ros Wright (RW) Alison Collins (AC) John Henderson (JH) Jan Adamson (JA)

Apologies: Roger Boston (RB) Karen Meikle (KM)

Chair: RB
Recorded by: AC

Agenda:
1. Apologies
2. Matters arising from AGM and last committee meeting
3. Membership update
4. Treasurer update
5. Social walks
6. Challenge event
7. Feedback from January Local group meeting
8. AOB
9. Date and time of next meeting.

			who	when	Status	Comment
1	Apologies	RB Welcomed everyone. Apologies noted as above.	RB			
2	Committee update / matters arising	Matters Arising from AGM 2025; RB and LS have looked into the possibility of changing banks to the Moray Firth Credit Union, but this was decided against after looking into the details. LS made a donation to Historic Scotland £100 LS made a donation to Mountain Rescue £100 PECO contact changed to secretary. We do not get any profit from sales. AC contacted Sarah Neal (Secretary LDWA) regarding using their zoom license for meetings. We would be able to use it for the AGM but not for committee meetings. The	AC			

		AGM has been booked for October 4th 2025 at Blairs Loch. Matters Arising from last committee meeting; JC to start an application for Martin Greaves Fund for blow up beds and pillows, blankets and shelters. It was decided not to pursue this as the items would be very rarely used.				
3	Treasures update	Ballance is £3017.90 . RB was concerned that she had not signed off the accounts at the AGM. LS will check. We need to add RB as a signatory. BJ asked if we had any outstanding commitments, LS said no. We agreed at the AGM to always keep £1000 in reserve for costs associated with Challenge events.	LS		On going	LS to check if accounts have been signed off. RB to be added as a signatory
4	Social Walks Report	BJ reported that the first walk of 2026 to Whiteness point had gone well with 11 attendees. She outlined the 2026 programme; Feb... Strathpeffer walk (BJ) Fishwives path (BJ) March .. Forrest to Forres (AC) April... Embo walk (KM) Gaick pass (PM)... Minibus 15 ? places ? LS asked about Dogs...PM will ask minibus company May... Portsoy to Buckie walk (LS). Limited to 15 folks as bus transport needed. Bus is at 9.31am Loch Ness (JA) Cairn Gorm Mountain Loop (PM) June ... BJ asked if our LDWA could put on a walk for the Moray Walking Outdoor Festival. ?13th or 14th June. RB agreed to be the leader with AC in reserve. It was decided to do the 3 rivers walk. PM will provide info on local history. Info to Bea by 27th Feb. Cairngorms Circumnavigation (PM) July... Covesea lighthouse walk. JH agreed to lead this. Tom Summerscales will lead a walk in Glenlivet	BJ			RB and AC to give walk info to BJ re Moray Walking Outdoor Festival before 27 th Feb.

		August ...Chalamain Gap (RB) ... ?Laich O'Moray September... Rafford cafe walk Angela Mitchell Hill walk (KM) October... 4th October AGM Drynachan/River Findhorn Angela Mitchell and AC Nov and Dec are blank at the moment. The Strider Deadline is 10th February PM asked BJ about recording the statistics for walks. We have to send information about the walk attendance data to Chris Burrell on a yearly basis. After some discussion it was decided that BJ will pass on walk information to PM for analysis.				
5	Challenge events	Laich O'Moray PM had sent out information by email to all committee members regarding starting the challenge event at Rafford VH. This was agreed. BJ asked if there would be a shuttle service from Forres and this was agreed. RB suggested that we charge for this transport to cover costs. The check points would be; Rafford VH Findhorn Burghead Lossiemouth Bishopmill Miltonduff JH and PM to see if these venues are available for 29th/30th August. The Marshals' walk	PM JH		soon	PM and JH to keep us informed

		will be on Saturday 8th August. This would be kept low key with little support. RB suggested that a sub-committee be formed to organise the event. PM thought that catering could be sorted nearer the time. AC had read on our website that the participants would be limited to 200. AC suggested a shorter walk as well as the 50 miles to encourage more participants. JH said that 100 participants would be the maximum we could cater for. PM said he would look into an additional shorter route, maybe a circular route to Alves. PM and JH will keep us informed regarding availability of venues.				
6	Feedback from January Local groups meeting	AC attended the Local Groups 'teams meeting' on 13th January. Some relevant feedback; Social walk policy Following the Local Groups weekend Penny Southern (Volunteer Support Officer) said there was a small group looking at the social walks policy and guidance which was thought to be overcomplicated and could put potential walk leaders off. There is going to be a review on 2nd Feb. I have sent her the policy written by BJ for our group. Volunteer awards A new volunteer award programme is going to be implemented in 2027. This is under review. LDWA AGM This will be held on Sunday 15th March in Maidstone. The AGM will also be on line. AC felt that it would be advantageous for our group if someone attended from our committee and she suggested that we pay for the hotel £160 and travel expenses. This was agreed. RB will consider going. Bookings have to be made by 16th Feb.	AC			RB to consider attending the AGM in Maidstone on behalf of our group.
7						
8	AOB	Nothing to report				

[illegible]