

LDWA WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the LDWA West Lancs Group held on 15.11.2021 at the Sea View

Meeting opened 19.30 hrs

Members Present 18 (23 last year on Zoom)

	<p>Apologies:</p> <p>At 19:30 Chair, Neil, welcomed all members. John Clarke opened the meeting with a poem he had written about local landmarks. Hot Pot was served.</p> <p>Apologies received: Margaret and Bob, Peter and Sue, Stan and Shirley, Pat, John Flanagan, Dave and Sheila, Kate and Mike</p>	ACTION
1	<p>Approve the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting.</p> <p>Minutes of the 2020 AGM, which had been sent to members, were passed as a true record.</p> <p>Actions from the previous submitted motions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. It was agreed to plan the Committee meetings to coincide with the group meetings, which were to be held every other month. Meetings to follow a format of slide shows and talks. This was to be trialled for 12 months. Due to COVID the initial meetings were held by Zoom. Action: Future group meetings and Committee dates to be decided. Neil suggested a Committee meeting in January 2022 to formulate dates. Previous agreements have suggested that committee meetings and groups meetings be held on the same night, to reduce travel and time. (David). There has been a previous agreement to hold two open committee meetings with members present for transparency and discussion. It was agreed that whatever format, there would be 15 minutes allocated to members time at the end of the meeting, if there has been a speaker/slideshow. (John Evenden had submitted this as a motion for the last AGM)2. Walks Register, it was agreed to complete these for every walk, however, following later guidance from central office, our interpretation of procedures was that they were no longer a requirement, so we ceased completing registers in October 2019. Neil explained that when the group does start to walk again, walk registers and risk assessments must be completed for every walk. Andy agreed to co-ordinate this. Action: walk registers are still a requirement, risk assessments are not, unless there is a challenge event. Walk registers to be completed and sent to Andy Webster. As a note, it would be good practice to gain a periodic update from Andy as to how this is going.3. It was suggested and agreed that the financial year would end at the end of December. Unfortunately, due to COVID this did not materialise. Action: It was decided that the financial year would be finalised at the end of September each year.4. Stan had asked in AOB at the AGM in 2019 that the Club spend funds on a separate social occasion, not necessarily linked to a walk. Action: With COVID this has not been possible. However, this can stay as an action for the future.5. AOB 2019, a request from a member for a Peak and Northern Footpath sign, to be placed somewhere on the Amble route. Cost is £375.00. plus materials. This request is on hold at present. <p>Proposed by Glyn Seconded by John E</p>	CARRIED

Annual Reports of the Committee

The Chairman's, Secretary's, Challenge Walks Organiser's & Walks Secretary's reports were circulated to members prior to the meeting for their perusal and comments.

The Chair, the Secretary, Challenge Walks Organiser & Walks Secretary briefly went through their reports.

Chair's report: Summary – Neil commented that he had been Chair of the Group for two and a half years. This is an extract from his report.

'We began a walks programme in April of this year after a gap of 13 months. Since then, we have put on 32 walks across the North West of varying distances and degrees of difficulty. Not unsurprisingly the attendance on these walks is down compared with 2019. To some extent this was inevitable with the booking system and limitations upon numbers. However, I am pleased to say we have now moved another step forward allowing leaders to dispense with this if they feel comfortable with this.

During the height of the Covid pandemic we continued with Group Meetings online via Zoom and I hope this gave the opportunity to keep in touch particularly during periods of lockdown. I am even more pleased to report that we had our first physical group meeting at the Sea View in October, our AGM in November is to be also held at the Sea View in person and we have booked a Christmas Meal at Whalley Golf Club in December to follow the traditional Pudding Plod walk. All are important steps back to normality.

I would particularly like to thank all members of the Committee for their hard work and support during the past difficult year. It has not been easy, having to meet online, and having to digest and react to the many changes in regulations that have been issued, often at short notice, and then determining how our Group should apply these. Inevitably there is a wide range of opinions in the face of such a disease as Covid, but I feel, and I hope you agree, we managed to steer a sensible and practical course through this.

So, let's now look to the future!

The continued success of the Group will be primarily down to the quality of the walks programme, and we must continue to review this and learn and ensure that we meet as many of our member's needs as possible.

At the beginning of 2020 I was ready to implement my first initiative as Chair, which was to expand the programme to include a Thursday walk for the main parts of the year. These walks would be aimed at those who wanted longer distance or more challenging walks. These would complement the existing Tuesday Social Walks and the Strider walks programme. Obviously, this never happened.

At the recent Group meeting we discussed this and decided that the programme in 2022 should be as follows

- Social Walks on Tuesdays of up to 12 miles. Once a month this would be of a longer distance.
- Two Thursday each month there would be longer and more challenging walks from March to October. This would include our traditional long distance walk (or two) over consecutive Thursdays.
- There would be two weekend walks per month on Saturdays or Sundays, depending upon the leader's preference, and one would be below 15 miles to cater for those who could not attend the Tuesday social walks

I hope now that as a result there is more choice for each member, and we will see how this works out in practice and develop and adapt the walks programme for 2023 accordingly.

The depth of this walks programme is down to efforts of many people, but in particular to Jane Anthony and Dave Whittaker, who have the considerable task of cajoling people into leading and organising all the many walks. We should never underestimate the importance of their work and the considerable amount of time involved. Secondly, I thank our many leaders, who willing volunteer time and time again and take on the responsibility of ensuring that we enjoy our walks and complete them safely. Can I please call upon all members, new and old, to ensure that they are doing their fair share of leading?

Neil commented he had attended the Local Group Meeting along with 17 other groups. It was good to meet and share ideas with other groups. It was good to see that the LDWA is an organisation full of dedicated individuals. Some of the issues discussed were:

	<p>The role of the NEC and in particular their duty of care to members, which resulted in policies that were not always welcomed but necessary. Neil felt he needs to be more supportive of the NEC and to take more interest and provide a bridge to our group.</p> <p>Long Distance paths and the LDWA being the custodian of the register and how to make it more valuable.</p> <p>How to record a data base for GPX routes – training will hopefully be provided by the LDWA.</p> <p>50th Anniversary programme -see below.</p> <p>IT Programme linked to funding and reserves policy, the LDWA had talked about the Charity Status being ‘too complicated’ to move this forward.</p> <p>Inclusion and Diversity – Neil presented the NEC document on this picking up on some of the main action points such as</p> <p>The importance of the welcome letter to new members, a buddying system, offering slower paced walks. Using public transport for the occasional walk. Combining walks with other groups, like East Lancs. No one present add any objections to shared walks with East Lancs so Neil said he would go forward with this.</p> <p>Neil, reflected that having spoken to different groups he felt that West Lancs was a good group with a strong Committee.</p> <p>Neil confirmed that if anyone had something they wanted to discuss, to talk on a walk with himself or any other member of the Committee.</p> <p>‘Finally, a large thank you to all members for your support in maintaining a strong Group during a difficult period and I wish you all the best of walking for the coming year.’</p> <p>Secretary’s report: Update: The 50th Anniversary cookbook, recipes had been submitted from Marilyn Crook and Margaret Burford. The emergency tags are ordered, awaiting delivery for those who have requested one.</p> <p>Karen had brought some old badges from West Lancs Challenge walks, and asked members how the current ‘badge’ had been agreed, as it was very old fashioned. Some discussion took place.</p> <p>Doreen suggested it could be replaced by a Red Rose emblem.</p> <p>Action: To bring this to the next Committee meeting</p> <p>Equipment Officer’s report: Apologies from Mike, however all the equipment is in order.</p> <p>Challenge Walk Organiser: Ian gave an update on the LDWA challenge event guidance which, understandably, still focuses on how to organize Covid safe events. It turns out that our main issue is the size of the small school hall which makes it almost impossible to provide food in a Covid safe environment. Ian has been looking into this for some time now and has had conversations with the owners of the Rivington Village Green Tea Room about providing food at the finish and they have come up with providing home made soup, plus crusty rolls and a cup of tea or coffee for £4.75pp. Ian asked the group to approve this, which they did.</p> <p>Walks Organiser’s report: David’s report was again self-explanatory. Attendees on all walks up to the AGM have been slighter lower than pre-Covid. A full programme is on the web site.</p>							
3	<p>Annual Statement of Accounts</p> <p>The annual statement of accounts was circulated to members prior to the meeting for their perusal.</p> <p>FUNDS at 30.9.21</p> <table><tr><td>Savings Account</td><td>£4,109.92</td></tr><tr><td>Current Account</td><td>£3,596.64</td></tr><tr><td>TOTAL</td><td>£7,706.56</td></tr></table> <p>Down £416 in the year.</p> <p>Jaqui explained that the accounts had been ‘in hibernation’ in lock down.</p> <p>The major expense carried from the last AGM was a donation of £600.00 for the NEC IT fund plus there was £278 of day to day expenses in the year. We had received £462 in advance for the 2022 Amble to offset some of this.</p>	Savings Account	£4,109.92	Current Account	£3,596.64	TOTAL	£7,706.56	
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	<p>Outstanding expenditure will be the emergency tags, which are on order and will cost £3.00 per tag plus VAT.</p> <p>The statement of accounts had been approved by Peter Lomax.</p> <p>For completeness, the accounts were proposed by Ian and seconded by Jane</p>																							
4	<p>Appoint an independent examiner of the financial accounts Peter Lomax would be asked to act as independent examiner of the financial accounts for 2020/21 Proposed by Jaqui Seconded by Neil</p>	CARRIED																						
5	<p>Discuss and consider any properly submitted motion There were no submitted motions</p>																							
6	<p><u>Election of committee</u></p> <p><u>No members came forward for election to the Committee, the existing members agreed to stand again.</u></p> <p><u>Officers</u></p> <table><tr><td>Chair</td><td>There are no nominations. Neil has agreed to stand again</td></tr><tr><td>Secretary</td><td>There are no nominations. Karen has agreed to stand again.</td></tr><tr><td>Treasurer</td><td>There are no nominations. Jaqui has agreed to stand again.</td></tr><tr><td>Equipment Officer</td><td>There are no nominations. Mike has agreed to stand again.</td></tr><tr><td>Challenge Walks Organiser</td><td>There are no nominations. Ian has agreed to stand again</td></tr><tr><td>Walks Secretary</td><td>There are no nominations. Dave has agreed to stand again</td></tr><tr><td>Web Master</td><td>There are no nominations. Ian has agreed to stand</td></tr><tr><td>Social Walks Co-ordinator</td><td>There are no nominations. Jane has agreed to stand again</td></tr><tr><td>Committee Post 1</td><td>There are no nominations. Glyn has agreed to stand again</td></tr><tr><td>Committee Post 2</td><td>There are no nominations. Andy Webster agreed to stand again</td></tr><tr><td>Committee Post 3</td><td>There are no nominations. John Clarke, agreed to stand again.</td></tr></table> <p>Neil requested that members should consider becoming a Committee member and could ask any questions to existing committee members on walks.</p> <p>Agreed Peter Lomax</p> <p>Seconded Arthur Roberts</p>	Chair	There are no nominations. Neil has agreed to stand again	Secretary	There are no nominations. Karen has agreed to stand again.	Treasurer	There are no nominations. Jaqui has agreed to stand again.	Equipment Officer	There are no nominations. Mike has agreed to stand again.	Challenge Walks Organiser	There are no nominations. Ian has agreed to stand again	Walks Secretary	There are no nominations. Dave has agreed to stand again	Web Master	There are no nominations. Ian has agreed to stand	Social Walks Co-ordinator	There are no nominations. Jane has agreed to stand again	Committee Post 1	There are no nominations. Glyn has agreed to stand again	Committee Post 2	There are no nominations. Andy Webster agreed to stand again	Committee Post 3	There are no nominations. John Clarke, agreed to stand again.	<p>CARRIED</p> <p>All the committee were approved</p>
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7	<p>Any other business: It was agreed at the October meeting that the Club contribute to a replacement bench, which was bought by the Club in recognition of John Viney’s service to the Club over many years. Unfortunately, the bench has been removed by Park Rangers. Ian has contacted the Rangers and is in the process of gathering information for a replacement. Gareth expressed concern re the recent ‘hacking’ of emails. This was discussed and some general points made.</p>																							

<p>As there was no further business the formal meeting closed.</p> <p>Neil thanked everyone for their attendance and then invited everyone for a presentation on a potential 'loop' walk from the best scenery of the Lancashire Way to celebrate the 50th Anniversary, culminating in a Jacob's join, possibly at Hurst Green Community centre on Sunday 19th June.</p> <p>(Action: it was agreed to book this)</p> <p>Format would be 50 miles over 4 days. 3 Tuesdays and 1 Sunday.</p> <p>Day 1 13.5 miles 31st May Hurst Green, Dinkley, Whalley, Nick of Pendle, Pendle Hill and Downham</p> <p>Day 2 13miles 7th June Downham to Newton in Bowland</p> <p>Day 3 10.5 miles 14th June Dunsop Bridge to Chipping</p> <p>Day 4 19th June 13 miles Chipping to Hurst Green</p> <p>Neil thanked everyone for their interest and the meeting formally closed.</p>	
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