

LDWA WEST LANCASHIRE GROUP

Committee Meeting
Monday 15th August 2022 at the Sea View

Minutes

	<p>Apologies: Glyn, Andy and John</p> <p>In attendance: Neil, Ian, David, Jane, Karen, Jacqui, Mike</p> <p>Standing items: The club is committed to litter picking at car parks. Associated membership of the Ramblers and looking after the Trig point at Darwen. Recently painted by Dave and Sheila, thank you!</p>
1	<p>Chairs Introduction.</p> <p>Minutes of the Last Meeting. Agreed.</p> <p>The time allocated to the meeting was an hour before the guest speaker arrived.</p>
2	<p>The Walks Programme</p> <p>Neil commenced the meeting by commenting on the comprehensive programme put together by David and Jane. He thanked both for their contribution and the leaders who had put themselves forward. David reported that average attendance on recent walks was 17 and 10 for Tuesday and Weekend walks respectively. These were slightly down on Pre Covid times but still more than satisfactory.</p> <p>Actions:</p> <p>David to continue to email out the programme on a monthly basis and is to send an email out for volunteers for walks where there are gaps.</p> <p>Previous minutes, actions for those leading a walk.</p> <p>Neil reiterated that there needed to be a brief description of the walk, so walkers knew what to expect ie the time, length, ascent and terrain of the walk. This will continue. Neil felt the more detailed the description, it might encourage more people to attend walks and know what walks would be appropriate for them.</p> <p>Neil explained how he would like all routes on our website walks database, which would not only include a description and report of the walk, but a route GPX file with map and photos. This is what the LDWA had requested of all groups, so that members can access walk routes after the event. Neil is keen to promote this, and we should all try to encourage leaders to provide the necessary information to populate the walks database.</p> <p>Neil had already email members explaining the Walks Database and the need for a GPX file of every walk. Hopefully with this increased awareness and constant reiteration of this message we should manage to upload more of our walks.</p>

	<p>Ian felt that we should, however, continue to show our walks under ‘past walks’ and he is happy to upload both. Those members with a Smart phone or mapping can do this task easily.</p> <p>Joint walks with East Lancs</p> <p>Neil had requested of Hilary Scott, the current Chair of East Lancs, that we continue next year with 8 weekend walks, four each, on the last weekend of each month from March to October. She was to discuss this at the next Committee Meeting of East Lancs.</p> <p>It was noted in East Lancs minutes that the walks had not been particularly well attended and that why do we need these as “everyone is welcome on every walk”. Numbers have varied but apart from one Thursday walk the number were similar to our own weekend walks. East Lancs seem luke warm on continuing with this initiative next year. Neil reiterated that it is just a “badge” added to one of our walks, was no extra work for either group, but it was being specifically “marketed” as a joint walk and might encourage more interaction between the two groups.</p> <p>Action: To continue with the programme for joint walks until the end of the year ie August and September and then review.</p> <p>There have been comments from a few members in regard to the cost of petrol and travelling distances for recce’s and 10 mile walks.</p> <p>Action: The club should promote car sharing and have designated places to park up and share if there is a distance to be travelled. This is in line with the LDWA’s environmental policy, page 98 Strider April 2022.</p> <p>Neil reported that 50 Mile Anniversary route was challenging and the feedback very positive.</p> <p>The event at the Bayley Arms was well attended, with a good atmosphere and support from older members.</p>
3	<p>Jacqui had provided a summary of the financial position of the Group summarised below.</p> <p>Neil felt that the Club was in a good financial position, with funds of approx. £7,400, which is just £300 less than at the start of the financial year ie 1.10.21.</p> <p>Main expenditure this year. £355.00 for the coaches and £200 for the sandwiches/chips on the 50th Anniversary events. Donations of £700 to Mountain Rescue and Air Ambulance £160.00 deposit to Whalley golf club and subsidy last year £200 for refreshments at the Sea View for Group meetings £92 Emergency Tags</p>

	<p>The above adds up to £1707. The Amble just about covers this. There is then some smaller incidental expenditure which accounts for the small deficit so far this year.</p> <p>Outstanding expenditure: Sandwiches at the Sea View x 1 (£75.00 outstanding). £45.00 guest speaker for tonight. Replacement John Viney bench approx. £400.</p> <p>£45.20 from the SI entries for the Barbondale Round, to go to Mountain Rescue.</p> <p>The question was asked about spending some money? It was agreed the club needed no equipment but could do with a West Lancs banner for outside the Hall on the Amble and use in other events.</p> <p>Action: To find out costs.</p> <p>Outstanding financial Actions: A member has asked the club to fund a Northern Peaks sign. These are £385.00 plus VAT and installation. Action: On hold at present.</p> <p>Emergency Tags These are available to Primary members at £3.00 plus VAT per person. 24 members so far have tags. This is still open to any Primary member.</p>
4	<p>Social Events Previous Social events: On the 18th October there was a social evening at the Sea View. The hot pot AGM on the 15th November was well attended, again at the Sea View. The Pudding Plod was a success on the 12th December, thanks to Glyn and Julie. 21st March, sandwiches and a get together at the Sea View. Ian gave feedback from Amble. 50th Anniversary event on June 19th at the Bayley Arms. 3rd August Fish and Chip walk. 15th August – Guest Speaker</p> <p>Future events: The 2022 Pudding Plod is on the 18th December at Whalley Golf Club. Glyn and Julie to organise.</p> <p>The AGM is to be held on the 14th November at the Sea View.</p> <p>Neil is keen for a social event to happen in late September/early October. Idea's to be put forward – volunteers please.</p>
5	<p>AOB Previous Minutes Neil asked for progress on the Logo? Karen had suggested, following on from the AGM, that the Club replaced their 'old fashioned' badge/logo. One member had suggested that we go for the Red Rose with West Lancs and some boots to complete this.</p>

Action: Karen has sought information from the LDWA and there are no restrictions in regard to changing our Logo. Gaynor had volunteered to produce a proposal using Publisher software that she had access to and had come up with several very good examples. However, it was felt that whilst the design was good the quality could be improved by using alternative software. Ian is contacting Northumbria and Vermuyden groups who have recently created new logos to see how they went about it.

Update: Ian reported that Northumbria had used a member who is a graphic designer to create their new logo.

John Viney's bench. This is now in situ.

Doreen has made a contribution. Awaiting bill from Council.

NEC

David, Karen and Neil had attended a Zoom meeting hosted by Karen Pickersgill, asking for NEC volunteers, approximately 16 roles to fill. Some have already been filled as reported in Strider. Those seeking information can look at the Tool kit on the LDWA website.

Members would also be consulted as to their views on the Strider publication.

Neil reported that the IT system had still not been actioned, despite a £100,000 legacy from a member and there currently being £130,000 in the IT fund.

Committee - forward planning

Neil suggested that we should be looking ahead in advance of the AGM to ensure that the Committee remained strong and fresh. Glyn had reported he wished to step down from the Committee this year.

Those in attendance were happy to continue as Committee members but recognised the need for some forward planning. In particular, Jacqui felt that after 10 years in the role of Treasurer that she would like to step down. It was suggested that an option might be for someone to shadow her for the next year and take over as treasurer after the 2023 AGM.

It was commented that a Vice Chair could be appointed at this AGM with a view to succession.

Neil was keen for committee members to have roles, to share out duties, a Social Secretary being one. Neil would discuss this specific role with John Clarke, who he felt would fill this role perfectly. This will need further discussion.

Update. John would be happy to help with walking related social events but nothing more.

AGM weekend

Local Groups weekend is 18th/20th November at Buxton. Neil attended last year and was keen for a couple of members to attend this year, as support to the NEC and an opportunity to learn from other groups. It was reported that these weekends had previously been 'information overload'.
In order for members to come forward, it was agreed that funding be available from the Group for up to two members to attend. Neil said that he would attend again and was hoping to encourage someone else to join him.

Update. Neil has now informed us that unfortunately he cannot attend as he is away in Scotland that weekend and cannot change this. One other person had been asked but equally could not make that weekend. We will therefore ask if any non-Committee members would like to attend. Action point – e mail to members with this request.

100 2025

Norfolk and Suffolk have asked West Lancs for assistance on a checkpoint. Karen to find out more but in principle we agreed that we should support the Hundred event more.

A 50 Mile Challenge event

Neil is keen for the Group to hold such an event, probably every three years potentially rotating with Lakeland and /or East Lancs. To discuss further at the next meeting.

Long Distance path for 2023

Karen reported that The Peak Way was a sustainable 155 mile walking route around the Peak District, using trains and buses. It takes in the best Peak District views. Karen to find out more and Committee members also encouraged to assess the merits of this walk.

Karen also discussed an idea that the U3A walking groups have come up with, 'Walking Swops'. The idea is for two areas to come up with a lead walking programme for up to 5 days in each area. Attendees book their own accommodation and travel etc., It is a way to walk in a new area and a good idea!

Kanters and memorial walk for Jeff Parr

It was agreed that when the time was appropriate to approach Enid for a discussion.

Trig Point

A thank you to Dave and Sheila for painting the Trig Point.

Date of next meeting to be decided.