

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE BRIDGNORTH AND DISTRICT WALKING CLUB ON THURSDAY 26th NOVEMBER 2020 USING THE ZOOM PLATFORM.**

**PRESENT:** Clive Dyson (Chairman), Dave Jones (Vice Chair), Tim Day (Treasurer), Marion Law (Secretary), Hilary Davies (Programme Secretary), Kate Dyson, Anne Furlong, Martin Howitt, Caroline Haigh.

Gill Steed, Keith and Vick Chandler, Ian and Shirley Kidd, Pam Day, Ruth and Peter Dunkley, Ali Sacre, Keith Fradgley and Tammy Ratoff.

**APOLOGIES:**

John Bourne, Bob Bosson, Dot Cox, Bob Coughlan, Eileen Reynolds, Ina Roberts , Ron Vaughan.

**1. MINUTES OF 2019 AGM**

The minutes were approved as a correct record.

**2. MATTERS ARISING:**

There were none not otherwise on the agenda.

**3. CHAIRMAN`S REPORT**

Clive Dyson’s report had been circulated to members in advance. As a result of the Covid pandemic, Clive said that there had been much cancelling of walks and of two of the booked holidays, one to Crianlarich and one to Pembrokeshire. All members payments had been refunded for both holidays. He thanked all members of the committee, walk leaders and Hilary in particular for her work on the programme and everyone for their patience.

A paragraph reporting on the work of the ROWs group is included in Clive’s report.

**4. TREASURER’S REPORT - 31ST OCTOBER 2020**

Tim Day’s report had been circulated with the agenda.

He reported that the Club had 47 paying members which was 6 fewer than the previous year and that the balance on the Club’s General Account was £671.47 and the Holiday Account was £612.44 including £180.00 for deposits towards next year’s holiday.

He recommended keeping the subscription at £12 per person for the current year 2020/21 and kept at the same level for next year 2021/22.

Keith Fradgley asked whether a reduction in the subscription had been considered but Tim preferred to keep the subscription at the same level for ease of administration and for consistency. Clive pointed out that this was still only £1 a month.

2.

Tim also reported that there would be additional expenditure items to be charged to the accounts in 2020/21.

Vic pointed out that membership was down (by 6) from the previous year. Pam said potential new members should be encouraged in the light of renewed interest in walking during the pandemic. She said that several new members had joined the Ramblers.

Clive said that he would write to members encouraging them to re-join and to walk with the Club and also contact some potential new members who had indicated they were interested in joining the Club. **ACTION – CLIVE.**

Tim also reported that Clive and he had successfully obtained a full refund of monies paid to the company who owned the Crianlarich Hotel and that everyone had therefore been fully reimbursed.

The accounts had yet to be reviewed by the Independent Examiner, Keith Fradgley, because of the current “lockdown”. Keith asked the meeting to thank the Treasurer for all his work.

The Accounts and Subscription proposals were approved unanimously.

**5. PROGRAMME SECRETARY’S REPORT**

Hilary Davies‘s report had been circulated with the agenda.

Hilary added that six months of walks had been cancelled, but that some members had continued to walk in small, self-organised groups.

The Chairman thanked Hilary for the work she put into organising the programme.

Anne Furlong also reported on arrangements for next year’s May holiday in the Lake District. People had paid individual deposits to the hotel to obtain the benefit of credit card protection.

**6. THE RAMBLERS - SHROPSHIRE AREA REPORT**

Anne Furlong’s report had been circulated in advance. Anne said that the important information was that Will Tandy, of Shropshire Young Ramblers, had been appointed Area Chair, following Peter Carr’s retirement after nine years. Will was keen to use new technology to promote the Ramblers and walking. Anne Suffolk was currently standing in for Will during his wife’s illness, but Will expected to return as soon as possible.

Anne particularly reported that footpath work in the county continued in the local groups and reports of footpath problems were made to Shropshire Council, and that the Area Environment Officer, Trevor Allison, was very active in keeping up to date on planning applications and their effect on the local rights of way network.

3.

Anne was impressed by the work of the Ramblers Area organisation, especially in relation to rights of way matters.

**7. PROPOSALS for, and** **the ELECTION of, COMMITTEE MEMBERS and OFFICERS and RAMBLERS’ ASSOCIATION DELEGATE**

**Chairman**: Clive Dyson said that he would stand for one more year.

**Secretary**: Marion Law was standing down. The Committee had proposed that Caroline Haigh be appointed Secretary.

**Treasurer**: Tim Day was willing to stand again.

**Programme Secretary:** Hilary Davies was willing to stand again.

**Vice Chair:** Dave Jones was willing to stand again, but not necessarily as Chair next year.

**Ordinary members:** Mary Loach was standing down

Anne Furlong, Martin Howitt, Ali Sacre, were proposed as ordinary members.

Anne Furlong was confirmed as the representative of the Club at Ramblers Shropshire Area.

All the above proposals were approved.

The AGM also recommended that the Committee co-opt Marion Law to benefit from her long experience.

**9. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER.**

Keith Fradgley was re-appointed as Independent Examiner.

**10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Kate Dyson reported that arrangements for the 50th anniversary celebration had been cancelled as a result of the restrictions on social events due to the pandemic. She thanked those who had volunteered their help. It was hoped to hold an alternative event during 2021. Clive appealed for members to send photographs of former Club activities for the website to mark the 50th anniversary - **ACTION Hilary/Clive**

The next AGM would be on 25th November 2021 at Bridgnorth Library.

Clive closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their “virtual” attendance.

4.

Following the meeting a general discussion took place about how to re-start the walking programme at the end of the current lockdown period from 2nd December.

Ramblers advice was that up to 30 people could be accommodated on walks, but generally groups were finding that 10-12 people on one walk was appropriate especially when considering social distancing advice. There was currently some uncertainty about the effect of Shropshire being in Tier 2 from 2nd December. The next possible dates, adhering to the Club’s normal pattern of 2nd and 4th Sundays, would be 13th and/or 27th December. Hilary already had offers of walks which could be used on those dates and she would contact the leaders to confirm arrangements. She would also send out a general appeal for leaders to offer walks further ahead, preferring shorter walks to long ones, partly to appeal to those members who had not been walking while we have been restricted. But she would not prepare a programme for more than 4-6 weeks ahead, given the uncertainty surrounding future restrictions. Members would have to be aware of the risks of walking in groups and be willing to take responsibility for themselves, as well as observing social distancing and walking in groups of 6.

If any walker subsequently developed Covid symptoms other walkers in the same group would have to be told.

Keith suggested that walks might be targeted at people who may have been isolated. The leader, or person taking the bookings, would have to decide whether to give these members priority.

Pam reminded members that it was important to have contact details of everyone booking on the walk.

Tim, as Treasurer, reminded members that the current subscription of £12 was now due.