

## Minutes of the Ross on Wye and District Walking Group 37th AGM

Thursday April 8<sup>th</sup> 2021 (Held via Zoom at 11.00 am)

- 1 **Apologies for Absence:** Andrew and Alison Chalmers, Roy Matthews, John Pullen, Ronnie and Brian Bunting, Pippa Frost, Carol and Frank Enderby, Norman and Brenda Pomfret, John and Elaine Lutkin, Mary Richards, Chris James.

There were 27 members present via Zoom. (Although the 27 attending via Zoom was not sufficient to attain a quorum, due to the Covid19 lockdown, the committee had no choice but to accept this number and go ahead with the AGM)

- 2 **Notes from 36<sup>th</sup> AGM.** There were no formal minutes from 2020 due to COVID 19, so the notes were just acknowledged.
- 3 **Chairman's Report** from Jan Lelievre (attached) which was enthusiastically received.

- 4 **Treasurer's Report and Final Accounts** (Attached) given by David Egan

There has been very little account activity over the past 12 months. The majority of it involved the refunding of deposits to those who had booked for the Walking Weekend 2020 in Lulworth and the refund of AGM 2020 lunch deposits.

The remainder of the account activity was mainly restricted to our regular running costs for the RWG:

Insurance	£79.80
Stationery	£60.76
Website	£76.79
OS Maps	£100.00

Our normal basic annual running costs are ~£317 which is usually easily covered by our subscription income of ~£540.

As a result of not collecting subscriptions last year the account showed a deficit of £333.34

Our bank balance stands at £2448.42

It was proposed to accept the Audited accounts. Proposer Virginia Jensen, seconded by John Smart.  
ACCEPTED by the meeting.

Independent Examiner for 2021-22. Gill James was thanked for her previous service. Cindy Smith has agreed to be the independent examiner for 2021-22.

Proposed to have subscription of £5 members and £2 Social members for year 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021-22.  
Proposer Jane Hadler, seconded by Hilary Smart. ACCEPTED by the meeting.

- 5 **Membership Secretary's Report** (Attached) given by David Egan. Currently 115 members. Note that the membership year is now 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.
- 6 **Walks Co-ordinators Report** (Attached) given by Harry Britten Austin. There will now be a rolling online programme. Roy Matthews and Michael Abrahams have been trained to maintain the online walks programme in Harry's absence.
- 7 **Election of Committee**

There being one nomination for each of the vacant positions, the following were elected unopposed:

Jan Lelievre – Chairman  
Secretary – Kath Baldwin  
Treasurer/Membership Secretary-David Egan  
Walks Co-ordinator- Roy Matthews  
Committee-Ellie Wiltshire  
Committee-Shirley Egan  
Committee-Pauline Thomas

- 8 **President's comments.** Harry Britten Austin congratulated the members for keeping things going during lockdowns and restricted walking due to COVID 19. He also thanked Jan Lelievre for taking over the Chairmanship during this difficult year and thanked the Committee for their work and for continuing to meet via Zoom.  
The Presidents BBQ will take place on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at the Yew Tree and awards for leading and completing the most walks in 2019/20 and 2020/21 will be announced at the event.  
The Ross Walking Festival will take place during the last weekend of September. There is a link to this on the RWG website.

**Signed:**

**Signed:**

**Date:**

RWG 2021 AGM, Chairman's Report

That was not the year I was expecting! This time last year I was hoping we would be returning to normal walking by early autumn and here we are, 1 year later still restricted to walking in groups of 6. But on a positive note, most of the walks are fully booked and I am keeping everything crossed for groups of up to 30 from 17 May.

It was not an easy start for the new committee, particularly for the new members, Kath, Michael, Roy and Ellie who had not experienced the usual face to face light hearted committee meetings. Zoom meetings were a bit of a challenge, not exactly relaxing and there was no coffee and cake! But many thanks to all the committee for battling on and helping get the business done, to David for setting up the Zoom meetings and to Kath who took on the role of secretary with minimal handover. We produced some guidance for leaders and walkers to help us walk safely from August and Harry devised the online walk booking system. On the whole it worked very well and we enjoyed some lovely new local walks and appreciated even more than usual, the beautiful area we live in, with only the occasional slip when we were talking so much we briefly forgot about social distancing. It's really good to see the programme filling up again and even though the walks are all fairly local, it's a very interesting programme with some great new ideas. Thank you to those members who have done so much to keep us walking this year.

I hope you have all had a chance to have a look at our new club website which is easy to use and has made booking walks during the restrictions very easy. A huge thank you to Harry for this, your hard work is greatly appreciated. If you have any comments about the site or need help to use it, please let Harry and/or the committee know, to help check if it is meeting the club's needs.

Sadly our 2020 holiday at HF Lulworth was cancelled but thanks to the hard work and determination of the organisers, Hilary and John Smart, everyone received a refund of their deposit. Very many thanks to Hilary and John who have agreed to organise the next holiday at HF Dolgellau in May next year, it is greatly appreciated and I will try not to fall and break a limb this time!

I would like to thank last year's outgoing chairman, Martin Hudson for his hard work and support during his 3 years as chairman and his efficient laid back style has been what I have tried to emulate in the last year, but I am afraid it is still work in progress!!!

My final thanks go to all the other members who have helped keep the club running in the last year, in many different ways, such as dealing with communications to members, overseeing our OS maps membership and acting as the independent examiner.

I hope most of you will have at least had your first Covid vaccination and are looking forward to returning to a more normal lifestyle. But, after over a year of very little socialising, for many of us it may feel very strange and even when restrictions are relaxed, it may be a while before we all feel comfortable in large groups. Whenever that may be for you, I look forward to seeing you all in the not too distant future.

Jan Lelievre  
April 2021