

## **Wellington Walkers are Welcome**

**Minutes of the 2023 Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 6 August 2023 at 15:00 at 1 Wrekin Course, Wellington.**

**All the reports had been circulated in advance and available to peruse on the website.**

**Present:** Eve Clevenger, Jean Escott, Pamela Hill, Chris Jay, Sheila Jones, Malcolm Skelton, Naomi Wrighton, Diane Hambleton, Gill Juster, Tim & Gill Riggott, Carol Round, Sharon Sinclair, Phil Spellman, Iris Warnock, Jo Whitehead, Pauline Wilson.

**1, Apologies:** Amanda Graham, Julie Pierce, Greg Vernon, Lorraine Hunt, Ewa Perry, John & Nadine Shearman, Dave Smith.

**2, The minutes of the AGM held on 7 August 2022 were accepted as a true record.**

**3, Matters arising:** None.

**4, Chair's Report:** Eve welcomed everyone to the meeting and made reference to her report, commenting on yet another busy year for the group: September's Walking Festival programme has been finalised, the leaflets printed and bookings coming in; the Annual report was well received by the national committee; financial support from Wellington Town Council continues with enthusiastic support from Julie, our link councillor; and collaboration with numerous other groups has been maintained. We have achieved our aim to promote visiting and walking in Wellington. Eve thanked the committee for its hard work and energy. Special mention was made of the death of Brian Herring, a keen environmentalist and former committee member.

**5, Treasurer's Report:** Sheila confirmed that the accounts had been audited and approved by Chas Kay. She reported a healthy balance of **£1102.84** at the year end, 31 March 2023. Itemised income and expenditure is detailed on the website.

**6, Secretary's Report:** Naomi referred to her report, confirming that the committee had met via zoom on 8 occasions since the 2022 AGM, with an additional two single issue forums. There are currently 175 members, including 12 patrons. We received overwhelmingly positive feedback about our 11th Walking Festival in September 2022, which included a Heritage Open Day linked event on Thomas Parker. Core activities have included the programme of regular Sunday walks, the support of the Shropshire Way's September festival and Hope House's fund-raising event Take a Hike in March, with an additional Coronation themed walk in May at the behest of LoveWellington. Naomi updates the website and Facebook page. WWaW has established links with local organisations, notably LoveWellington; Ramblers' Wellbeing Walks; Telford & East Shropshire Ramblers; and the Friends of the Telford T50. We featured on Radio Shropshire's Walk & Talk broadcast in November. The group is represented on the Local Access Forum and Telford Green Spaces Partnership and has a significant input to Telford Walk Week. Naomi remains on the national WaW committee and attended the last annual get-together at Alton, Hants.. WAW Patron Kate Ashbrook visited Wellington in June and accompanied Malcolm and Naomi on The Ercall Coronation walk. The group's aspirations for the coming year are as follows:

representation at WaW's annual AGT at nearby Whitchurch; participation in national themed events, e.g. Children in Need, Spring Litter Pick; support of SlowWays; organisation of our 12th Walking Festival; and collaboration on publicity events.

**7, FP/PMGO's Reports:** Malcolm had submitted two separate reports to reflect his dual role. As Footpath Secretary, he has dealt with queries relating to footpaths and considered planning applications which impact on ROWs. He has volunteered to represent WWAW on a new Planning Advisory sub-group at the LAF. As Path Maintenance Group Organiser, Malcolm has overseen a total of 15 work sessions, representing 189 person hours, across 14 sites. Tasks have included clearing stiles/gates, attending to encroaching vegetation and fallen trees, litter picking and correcting signage, as well as maintaining our equipment. He has lobbied TWC for jobs beyond the capability of the volunteers. A significant achievement has been the reopening of the lower route towards Wrekin Course off the Wrekin. In collaboration with the Pride in the Community initiative, Malcolm helped produce a video which is available on TWC website.

**8, Publicity Secretary's Report:** Jean's year has been very productive with numerous press releases and articles featuring locally in the Shropshire Star, Telford Journal, Community Newsletter, This is our Wellington and Radio Shropshire, and nationally in WAW newsletters, including a Art in the Landscape feature.

**9, Election of Officers:** All the current committee members indicated their willingness to continue in their respective roles. The following were therefore proposed, seconded and approved en bloc:

Eve (Chair)

Naomi (Secretary) (Jean to assume responsibility for monthly emails)

Sheila (Treasurer) (Amanda to take over once work pressure lessens)

Malcolm (Footpath/Path Maintenance Group)

Jean (Publicity Secretary)

Pam (Minutes)

Chris

Amanda

Greg has resigned due to family issues.

Carol and Diane volunteered to join the committee and were duly proposed, seconded and approved.

**10, AOB:** None.

**Thanks were expressed to Eve for her hospitality and the meeting closed formally at 16:15.**

**The date of the next Committee meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 7 September 2023 at 7:00 pm via zoom.**