

Wellington Walkers are Welcome

Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 7 August 2022 at 16:00 at 1 Wrekin Course, Wellington.

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

Present: Eve Clevenger, Pamela Hill, Chris Jay, Sheila Jones, Malcolm Skelton, Naomi Wrighton, Pat Barnes, Amanda Graham, Paul Kalinauckas, Greg Vernon, Iris Warnock, Pauline Wilson.

1, Apologies: Jean Escott, Julie Pierce, Lorraine Bradley, Sue Crampton, Lorraine Dixon, Alan Hill, Lorraine Hunt, Dave Smith.

2, The minutes of the AGM held on 3 November 2021 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, celebrating the group's hard work and achievements since last November's AGM in continuing to offer twice monthly led walks, maintaining the network of ROWs and liaising with other community initiatives to attract walkers to the area. She made particular mention of Malcolm's valued contribution in ensuring local routes are accessible, as well as thanking each member of the committee for the individual assistance given.

5, Treasurer's Report: Sheila confirmed that the accounts had been audited and approved by Chas Kay. After a protracted delay, the group's bank account had been transferred to NatWest in February. She reported a healthy balance of **£1000.92** at the year end, 31 March. 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 2021's AGM in November. Bob Coalbran's resignation as Footpath Secretary was noted. There are currently 155 members, including 11 patrons. Core activities include the programme of regular Sunday walks and the annual Walking Festival which offers a national WaW themed Heritage event, as well as the support of the Shropshire Way's September festival and Hope House fund-raising Take a Hike in March. Naomi updates the website and Facebook page. WWaW has established links with local organisations: LoveWellington; Ramblers' Wellbeing Walks; Telford and East Shropshire Ramblers; and the Friends of the Telford T50, groups with which we have shared stalls at 2 publicity events. In addition, WWaW has embraced the national SlowWays project by participating in recent "swarm" events to check and validate routes. The group is represented on the Local Access Forum and Telford Green Spaces Partnership. 4 committee members have attended training courses offered by TGSP. Naomi remains on the national WaW committee. The group's aspirations for the next year are as follows: representation at WaW's annual get-together at Alton, Hants.; participation in national themed events, eg Children in Need, Spring Litter Pick; support of SlowWays; organisation of our 12th Walking Festival; and collaboration on publicity events. With the impact of the pandemic abating, the AGM is now timetabled to be closer to the end of the financial year.

7, FP/PMGO's Reports: Malcolm had submitted two separate reports to reflect his dual role. As Footpath Secretary since Bob's retirement, he has dealt with queries relating to footpaths and considered planning applications which impact on ROWs, thus leaving Bob to conclude his involvement in his outstanding projects. As Path Maintenance Group Organiser, Malcolm has overseen a total of 17 work sessions in 9 months, representing 228 person hours, across 11 sites. He has lobbied TWC for jobs beyond the capability of the volunteers.

8, Publicity Secretary's Report: In her absence, Jean had forwarded a detailed list of the several press releases which she had sent to the local media since October 2021 to promote the Sunday walks, Get Telford Walking & the 2022 Walking Festival.

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)
Sheila (Treasurer)
Malcolm (Footpath/Path Maintenance Group)
Jean (Publicity Secretary)
Pam (Minutes)
Chris

Amanda and Greg volunteered to join the committee and were duly proposed, seconded and approved.

Both Naomi and Sheila stated that they wished to stand down from their respective roles at the next AGM. Amanda expressed her interest in assuming the treasurer role in the future once her work situation eased.

10, AOB: Naomi advised that Get Telford Walking is to evolve into a Telford walking festival as from 2023 with TWC Events team assuming responsibility. It will move to the half-term week at the end of May.

Thanks were expressed to Eve for her hospitality and the meeting closed formally at 16:55.

The date of the next Committee meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 31 August at 7:30 pm via zoom.