



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Online by Zoom

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Annual General Meeting of Tadcaster Country Walking Club was hosted by Steve Gorton, and opened at 7.30pm, by the Chairman, Michael Arnold, welcoming all members and explaining a little about the Zoom meeting. The meeting was attended by 26 members, Michael and Kate Arnold, Mary Auton, Kath and Geoff Ballance, Pat Bowman, Edna Feenan, Edward French, Frances and David Gigg, Denise and Steve Gorton, Dave and Kaye Howard, Maura and John Hunt, Sue Howard, Jillian Lawson, Roderic Parker, Lyn Parkin, Carol Pettifar, Rhenette Plum, Gillian Rowe, Christine Snowdon, Peter Watkins, and Joyce Webster.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were accepted from Hilary Battye, Helen Chambers, Steve Cobb, Jo Curtis, Jennifer French, Cath Grainger, Jean Hanby, Caroline Hedington, Felicity Hill, Joan Horner, Dave Howard, Monica Ivey, Adrian and Dee Lockwood, Angela and Derek Marshall, Joyce Preene, Len Pygott, Mary Ramsden, Pat Shackleton, Yvonne Sumner, David Sutcliffe and Eddy and Joan Thomas.

3. Agreement of Previous Minutes and Matters Arising .

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 4th February 2020, have been seen and were agreed as a true record. Our programme was cancelled a few weeks after the meeting, due to lockdown, so most issues were not followed up.

Two issues were raised at last year's meeting, which will be discussed further tonight, are members who have not been in contact with the club for a year or more, and also the need for Emergency Contact Details.

4. Chairman's Review of the Past 12 Months.

Despite a year of uncertainty, with lockdowns preventing any group walks for 14 weeks of the year, most of us have managed to keep walking throughout the pandemic. We have adapted to fit the ever-changing rules, walking in groups of 6, booking places on walks in advance, no car-sharing and also walking nearer home.

It is a credit to the committee, and the many walks-leaders, and the walkers themselves, that everyone has put in the extra effort to maintain group walks. A special thank you goes to Felicity, who has lead a walk from Tadcaster on every Tuesday except one during the pandemic.

Many of us discovered Zoom for the first time, and we had a series of over 20 quizzes, which helped keep our spirits up when we couldn't meet in person.

Sadly, two members passed away this year, Chris Hawkin in July and John Haithwaite in September. Both were longstanding members and are sadly missed.

5. Walk Co-Ordinator's Review.

The year started as normal, with walks planned for every Tuesday and Saturday. The Tuesday walks varied in length, whilst the Saturdays tended to be longer and further afield.

Then in March came the first lockdown, and everything changed. The weather was fine, and most of us managed to get out for some private walking.

We were delighted when the first lockdown was lifted and we could walk in groups of up to 6, even though we were presented with more challenges. Frances offered to co-ordinate the Saturday walks, and Pat the Tuesday walks. More members offered to lead walks, and we were always able to offer a choice of routes, with as many as five separate groups walking on any one day.

Lockdown 2, in November, brought even more complications, as we were in different areas with the tier system, but with Sue now organising Tuesday walks, we still managed to organise legal walks within safety guidelines.

Sadly, we are now in Lockdown 3, and again walks are not permitted. Everyone is missing walking and the company of friends, but we will be planning more walks just as soon as we can, even if only in groups of 6.

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards what turned out to be a series of most enjoyable walks.

6. Secretary's Report.

First, the sad news of the passing of two long-serving members of the club, Chris Hawkin, who died in July, and John Haithwaite in September. We were unable to attend either of their funerals, but several members of the group did manage to pay their respects by standing along the route of Chris's cortege.

The Club now has a total of 110 members.

Only 5 new members have joined us this year. Myra and John Robson and Mike Wareham joined us at the AGM. Jennifer French re-joined the club after a break, then Debbie Johnson was the first and only member to pay the increased fee of £5.

At this point we decided to temporarily restrict new members from joining, and give priority to existing members wanting places on walks. We will of course welcome new members again as soon as we are able.

7. Treasurer's Annual Review.

Frances presented a statement of the Club's finances for the year, showing that we have a credit balance of £150.95. With fewer new members this year, the income was greatly reduced, but this a result of the pandemic, and not a result of the increased membership fee.

There were no expenses, and so the Club's finances are in good order.

8. Election of New Committee

The present Committee were all prepared to stand again if members agreed, and were unanimously re-elected.

Ordinary Meeting

Items for discussion were as follows: -

1. Walks and Holidays for the Coming Year.

We cancelled our trip to Cober Hill last year, due to Covid, and our deposits have been retained by the hotel. These deposits have be used for our re-scheduled booking for 5th-7th July 2021. The hotel is still closed at present, with no certainty that the holiday can go ahead. Those who have booked will be contacted as soon as information is available.

Last year's holiday to Switzerland was also cancelled, and Michael is having discussions about the return of the deposits that are still held by Collett's.

Future walks will resume as soon as the club is able to under government guidelines.

2. Car Share Costs.

Not an issue at present, they will remain at 25p per mile..

3. Annual Dinner and Christmas Walk.

Geoff Balance proposed that, unless anyone else wanted to organise it, he would be prepared to lead the walk and approach the manager of the Arabian Horse, Aberford about a buffet lunch.

It was agreed that it is too soon to make plans even for December, and Geoff will wait a while before proceeding.

Similarly, the planning of the Annual Dinner will be reviewed later in the year.

4. Joining Fee to Remain at £5.

It was agreed that £5 remains a sensible amount.

5. Contact Details in Case of Emergency.

It was agreed at last year's AGM that all members should provide contact details in case of emergency.

Many members already carry a card in the top of their rucksacks, but in addition there should be a list of everyone's contact details to be held securely by the four Committee members.

A new Confirmation of membership Details form has been produced, which all members will be asked to complete and return, either online or on the paper form..

6. Any Other Business.

Joyce Webster, who is on the steering committee for Tadcaster Walkers are Welcome, asked if members would like to help identify footpaths and stiles in need of repair, so that their co-ordinator, Andrew Birdsall can report the problem to North Yorkshire County Council. Members could find it useful to know who to contact.

With no other matters arising, the meeting closed at 8.38pm.

Pat Bowman
4th March 2021