

Minutes of the South Wales LDWA, Rudry Parish Hall Saturday 8th October 2016

1 and 2 Welcome and Apologies John Tinelli as Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed the 22 attenders. They were: A. Clabon, B. Davies, F Davies, W. Fear, J Fox, R. Hollands, H. Holmes, G. Jackson, S. Johns, J. Johnstone, C. Llewellyn, N. Lloyd, G. Matthews, D. Morgan, A. Nixon, R. Richardson, J. Tinelli, A. Warrington, J. Winney, R. Wilkinson and H. Woodford.

Apologies had been received from: C. Murray. Littlejohn, A. Pratt, A. Williams, S. Hume, S. and H. Hunt, S. Pickering, J. Roberts and E. Ball.

3 Confirmation of the 2015 Minutes: These were accepted after RW had referred to 3 points

- A) The need to ensure that all ICE details were updated and kept safely with winter now approaching.
- B) The completion of Dan Hadfield's memorial at Folly Tower, Pontypool. The delay had been caused by the sudden death of the stone mason.
- C) The disappointing turn out at the Ludlow Social Weekend when only 6 members travelled to Ludlow, even though the idea had been very well-supported at the Deri AGM.

4 Chairman's Report: JT said that he had enjoyed being Chairman for the last year, as well as being Social Secretary. He was very pleased that over 60 walks had been organised this year and would provide full statistics of all walks and walk leaders at Redbrook in December. However, John now felt it was time to stand down in view of his other commitments. DM thanked JT for taking on the job at a difficult time for the group and those attending agreed with Dave's comments.

5 Treasurer's Report: RW pointed that in the past, e.g 2009, only 14 records constituted the financial report for the year, whilst he had sent out at least 75 cheques and had 32 pages of notes. He went through the printed report in some detail and reminded people that £4000 of the money for the Taith Torfaen was recorded in last year's accounts and that was why we seemed to have taken more money on the Rhondda Rollercoaster. The current balance of over £5200 remains healthy. RW has given the membership 12 months' notice that he will be standing down in 2017 as treasurer.

6 Secretary's Report: CM had decided to stand down. She had sent a report which JT read out, explaining briefly her role in the last year, which was to pass on information from the National Executive and to facilitate contacts between members. Sending just one email a week to members seemed to have worked well. Again, the whole group were very supportive of the work Claire had done and appreciated all her effort.

7 Walk Secretary's Report: JW said we had continued to offer a good range of walks with most weekends covered, though there were a few gaps in Feb 2017. He thanked Gerry J for his help with organising the walk planner and the group agreed that it was easy to use and was working well.

8 Election of Officers: The following were elected unopposed-

Chairman J. Winney (Proposed by D. Morgan, Seconded by A. Nixon)

Treasurer R. Wilkinson (Proposed by G. Matthews, Seconded by A. Warrington)

Secretary R. Richardson (Proposed J. Johnstone, Seconded by C. Llewellyn)

Challenge Walk Coordinator D. Morgan (Proposed A. Nixon, Seconded by R. Wilkinson)

Council Liaison Officer: R. Hollands (Proposed W. Fear, Seconded by B. Davies)

9 Group Challenge Walks: DM said that he needed help with the role of Entry Secretary for the Where Ravens Dare in October. Alwyn Nixon kindly agreed to take this on so the WRD is confirmed for Saturday 7th October 2017. Entries for Offa's Twisted Wye Kanter have now reached 61 over the 4 routes, with 13 entries from within the group. DM said that he hoped more members would take advantage of this new event ASAP. The RR remains very popular with many local people taking part; we had decided to offer a 16 mile alternative to those who struggle with the full distance, but with only one entrant at present, the committee would review the situation soon. We would probably need to have a minibus at Llanwonno to pick up retirees or those going well past the cut-off point. But with most people paying £14 as non LDWA members, it is still a very successful event. All members were thanked for their tremendous help on the RR.

10 The Monmouthshire Way 100 for 2020: DM also gave a presentation on this proposed walk which would start at Abergavenny, probably, with the route using Offa's Dyke and Usk Valley Way as well as going through Wentwood, Usk and part of the coastal path near Chepstow. He thought that a small committee of 5 could do the major planning and then with helpers allocated to those 5 people, then the admin and logistics would be feasible. After the presentation, there was 25 minutes of thoughtful questioning, with questions from AW, AN, WF, JJ, GM, JT, RR, HW and GJ. DM also read out comments from S. Pickering, S. Hume and G. Littlejohn expressing their support. Finally, a vote was taken where the group gave unanimous support to the undertaking.

11 Social trips: The committee had put forward just one trip next year to Knighton in Mid-June, but there was also some support for another. After a rather brief discussion the group voted 13-8 in favour of the one trip (B. Davies having left before the vote)

12 The Christmas walk/meal: JW confirmed this was going ahead at Redbrook and that menus would be circulated soon. RW confirmed also that £4 would be paid for everyone's first drink. Prizes for outlandish clothing could be awarded.

13 Charitable Donations: It was agreed to give £200 to the BB Mountain Rescue and £200 to Crownbridge Special School in Cwmbran, though DM wondered why the latter had not completed the work started in 2014 when we also supported them. RW said he would check that the work was going ahead properly.

14 AOB: DM informed the group that Bill Fear had taken on the role of organising AGM meetings for the LDWA. The group wished him well with this fearless decision.

JJ said that she was short of helpers for the North Yorks 100 in May as some regular supporters were missing. DM, RR, WB, RH, FD and, in her absence, Ann Nixon said they could help which would enable the event to go ahead. Petrol subsidies would be paid so that no one was out of pocket. The group all thanked Jo for her hard work and organisation over the last few years. 2017 would be the last year for Jo as organiser.

JT said that he was a little concerned that there were few new walk leaders coming through and encouraged new people to commit. He would give full details of the year's walks in December.

There being no other business, the meeting ended at approx. 4.25 p.m