

**RA IVEL VALLEY WALKERS
MINUTES OF THE AGM
Zoom Meeting – Tuesday 10 November 2020, at 7:30pm**

Present: 43 members present

ACTION

1. **Apologies for absence:** 3 members

2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 3 November 2019**

The Minutes were accepted by majority vote.

3. **Matters Arising:**

Payment by BACS – 80/85% of people are now paying by BACS so we only paid £60 in bank charges and this is reducing as more members use online payment facilities.

Pop-Up walks don't work – Because of the pandemic we have been forced to adopt a pop-up walk system in 2020 which has worked very well.

4.0 **Reports from Committee Officers:**

Chairman's report:

Roy offered his condolences to Anthea and family after the passing of her husband David. He had been an active member of IVW for many years becoming a committee member and then Chairman.

Roy outlined the Group's activities during the year and thanked the Committee who have had to work particularly hard to manage walking after lockdown, and to the walk leaders and other volunteers for their contributions to the rolling programme in this difficult year.

In particular he thanked Richard who is stepping down from the committee:

A full copy of the Chairman's report is available on the website.

5.0 **Treasurer's Report:**

Garry thanked John for handing over the accounts in a good state.

The accounts are available on the website. Please ensure you look at the version from 10th November as the earlier version contains an error.

Income and Expenditure - Administration

- There has been limited expenditure over year because of the pandemic - no printing and postage costs in the second half of the year.
- Village hall hire for meetings has been replaced with an annual subscription to Zoom.

Overall a surplus of £559.

Social Activities

Deficit of £360

This was deliberate to bring down an excessive balance. The Christmas lunch and Mulled Wine ramble were subsidised from the social account.

Accumulated Fund

Overall surplus of £199 for the year.

6.0 Election of Officers and Committee members:

Roy read through the nominations to the committee as detailed below:

*Those still needing to sign their nomination forms

Officers			
Position	Nominee	Proposer	Seconder
Chairman	Roy Carter	John	Eric
Treasurer	Garry Wallace	Sue	Trish
General Secretary	Gillian Wilkes	Ian	Anne
Membership Secretary	Ruth McNally	Derek	Paul
Programme Secretary	Alan Rowland	Pauline	Rachel
Footpaths Officer	Derek Turner	Bernard	Elizabeth
Webmaster	Pauline Seddon	Michael	
Publicity Officer			
Social Secretary	Roger McLeod	Richard	Alan
Committee Members			
Member	Tom	Bob	Elizabeth
Member	Mandy Wisson	Carol	Roy
Member	Jan Wolfarth	Sheila	Ruth
Distribution Officer	Carol Bond	Roger	Bernard

7.0 **Message from Nick (Area Chairman)**

Nick thanked everyone for their hard work and all the ideas they have come up with in order to offer a walking programme in this difficult year.

The online training courses have worked well and others are being planned for the future.

8.0 **Appointment of Independent Examiner**

Tony gave a thumbs up to continue as Independent Examiner for the Group and was approved by a majority vote.

9.0 **Any Other Business**

1. Bernard asked if we should continue to produce a printed programme and that perhaps it would be better to produce a smaller A5 sized flyer instead, with a link to our website.
 - a. Pauline Seddon pointed out that a small number of members (39) continue to receive the programme in paper format by post and they may not be able to access it online. We should speak to each of them to find out their opinion.
 - b. Bob said that the paper programme was a great way to publicise our walks.
 - c. Ruth said that a printed programme would attract new members.
 - d. Martin suggested we reduced the number printed by half to cover publicity and non IT members.
 - e. Roy Carter said it would be discussed at the next committee meeting in January 2021.
2. Do we have a link to our website from local authority websites?
 - a. Derek Turner doesn't think there is but he will ask them.
 - b. Pauline Seddon said we promote Bedfordshire/BRCC W4H so we should see if they will promote our walks in return.
3. Derek Turner added more on the 'Don't lose your Way' project. He said Bedfordshire have found 137 miles of paths in the Beds Borough and 197 in Central Beds. He will be assessing them.
4. Nick reminded people that the Area AGM is Monday 30th November at 7 pm via zoom. Anyone wishing to attend will need to email Nick on bedswalkfest@gmail.com to register for a place.
5. Dee expressed a view that she feels the committee is undermining what the Ramblers Association and the DCMS had agreed on group sizes. She believes we are not reflecting the views of the members by reducing the maximum number on walks to 10. She feels it should be left to walk leaders to decide the group size they are comfortable leading, within Government RA maxima and let members decide to book at place or not.
 - a. Rachel agrees with Dee - 15 was a good number.

- b. Roy Carter confirmed the committee have spent a significant amount of time discussing this and is very much split. This probably reflects the membership views also.
- c. Pauline said that the committee felt that we are imposing a lot of responsibility on our leaders to lead walks during this pandemic and asking them to decide on group numbers was a step too far.
- d. Inge likes group sizes of 6 and has experienced, even with these small numbers that people do not socially distance enough for her liking.
- e. Splitting large group sizes into smaller groups of say 6 and leaving the start point at different times, in different directions could be an option but would require a lot more leaders.
- f. Martin asked how a leader could keep the back of a group of 20 or 30 in view if everyone was socially distanced correctly.
- g. The public believe group sizes should be no more than 6, so their perception when seeing us, is that walkers are flouting the rules.
- h. Members should consider not what they can do (ie. walk in groups of up to 30) but what they should do (ie keep contact with others to a minimum and reduce the spread of the virus)
- i. Paul suggested we organise a poll to all members in deciding who controls walk numbers up to 30, the walk leader or the IVW committee. This will be discussed at the next committee meeting in January.
- j. The poll (Survey Monkey) could also include a question on programme printing.
- k. Dee's suggestion for a question on the survey:- "Given the recommendations from government and the RA national committee, do you agree with IVW adhering to the national committee guidelines on walk numbers, leaving the ultimate decision on group numbers to the walk leader."

10.0 **Date of next AGM:** TBA

Members are invited to email the Chairman with their views on how the meeting went and whether our future meetings should be held on Zoom or not.

AGM 2021

Hall: Sunday 6th November at 2:00pm to include a walk and lunch beforehand.

Or

Zoom: Tuesday 9th November in the evening at 7:30pm.

ATTENDEES

Tuesday 10th November 2020 at 7.30 p.m. - Zoom Meeting

Available from General Secretary