

Sussex Local Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 22 March 2018

Present: Trevor Beeston, Shirley Greenwood, Jane Bates, Chris Baines-Holmes, Chris Coates, Manfred Engler, David Hodge, Anthony Mitchell, Mary Motley, David Weatherley and Paul Collis.

1. Apologies for absence – Helen Smith, Joan Wortley.
2. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 18 February 2017 were agreed by the meeting.
3. Matters arising –
 - (i) Item 3 – Corporate wear: The polo shirts are not yet available.
 - (ii) Item 3 – Facebook: As reported last year a Facebook page exists, but DH is not updating it on a regular basis. JB said that someone more used to social media would be more pro-active and AM suggested that Sammy Dawkins may be interested. He will follow this up at the South Downs Marathon event. **(Action: AM)**
4. Annual Report of the Committee – this had been circulated by TB in advance of the meeting. Adoption of the report was proposed by DW, seconded by ME and agreed by the meeting.
5. Treasurer's Report – this was presented by SG together with the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2017, adoption of which was proposed by ME, seconded by PC and agreed by the meeting. SG will send a copy to the LDWA Treasurer.
6. Independent Examiner to the Accounts for 2018 – the appointment of Richard Coatsworth was proposed by CB-H, seconded by SG and agreed by the meeting.
7. Election of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee
 - (i) TB confirmed that David Nash had decided to step down as a member of the committee;
 - (ii) DH proposed the election of TB as Chairman, SG as Treasurer and PC as Secretary; this was seconded by DW and agreed by the meeting.
 - (iii) JB proposed the re-election of existing committee members – CB-H, CC, ME, DH, AM and DW; this was seconded by MM and agreed by the meeting.
 - (iv) DW proposed that JB be elected to the committee; this was seconded by ME and agreed by the meeting.
8. Future Events and Walks programme – TB said that our Group are running 2 events this year and supporting 2 events run by other groups:
 - (i) South Downs Marathon 2018 – CB-H has not yet managed to walk out the full route due to recent weather conditions. There are two proposed variations from last year's route at Jevington and Rathfinny/Cradle Hill. To date we have received 80 entries, slightly lower than at the same stage last year. Other arrangements are well in hand and when the route is finalised CB-H will provide the route description for CC to complete a risk assessment. **(Action: CB-H, CC)**
 - (ii) Sussex Loops 2018 – CB-H reported no significant work so far but the website is not due to open for entries until 1 June.

- (iii) Cinque Ports 100 2018 – The Pett Level check point due to be manned by Sussex is still causing concerns with the source of a water supply still being addressed. The volume of water needed is likely to be very large as 400 people would be coming through in about an hour, so some refilling of containers would be necessary. Options being considered include the local Lifeboat station. The current proposal for food items is “click and collect” but DH suggested delivery to him would be a better option, a couple of days in advance to enable any outstanding items to be procured elsewhere. CB-H will follow this up with the organisers. He also needs to hire a van for transporting equipment and water. At least 3 six foot tables are required; PC said he could provide 2 and AM can provide 2 slightly smaller tables. There was some discussion on the reclaim of expenses for this event as CB-H has been told there is no budget. It was agreed that a bill should be presented to Kent after the event.
(Action: CB-H, PC, AM)
- (iv) White Cliffs 50 – CB-H will be asking for volunteers to man the checkpoint for this event taking place on 26 August 2018. **(Action: CB-H)**
- (v) Walks Programme – ME said that there had been 22 walks in 2017 averaging 16 walkers each time; the current year programme is agreed up to July. ME is trying to reduce the emphasis on East Sussex and attempting to arrange figure of eight walks to allow people to quit at lunchtime if they are not up to the full distance. He is finding it difficult to recruit new walk leaders. DW said we do get new members walking and perhaps we should tap them up after a few weeks. ME also said the long lead time for Strider makes it difficult for some people to commit.
9. Any other business –
- (i) General Data Protection Regulations - PC had distributed a consultation document from LDWA to committee members and there was some discussion on comments that should be returned. Regarding current processes DH felt that for Events our approach was generally acceptable although some minor tweaking of wordings was required. Some information is retained by SG for the Kent/Surrey/Sussex trio of events which should also be compliant. CC queried how local email distribution is handled and TB confirmed that he has access to listings of Group members and associate members from central LDWA database. JB felt that the proposals around photographs were not workable. PC will put together a response from the Group based on these discussions. **(Action: PC)**
- (ii) Care of South Downs Way – AM wondered if we could approach the South Downs National Park authority with a proposal that our Group take responsibility for managing litter, etc. on a designated section of the SDW. It was agreed that this should be discussed in committee.

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and declared the meeting closed.