

Sussex Local Group of the Long Distance Walkers Association

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 31 March 2021

Present (via Zoom) : Jane Bates, Paul Collis, Trevor Beeston, Chris Baines-Holmes, Chris Coates, Manfred Engler, Rob Foster, Jane Giles, David Hodge, and Chris Kennedy.

1. Apologies for absence – Steve Hewitt and Mione Palmer.
2. The minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on 22 February 2020 were approved by the meeting.
3. Annual Report of the Committee – this had been circulated by JB in advance of the meeting. Adoption of the report was unanimously agreed by the meeting.
4. Treasurer's Report – this was presented by JB together with the Annual Statement of Accounts for 2019. She mentioned that neither the current year accounts nor those for 2019 had yet been reviewed by an Independent Examiner because of Covid lockdowns. Adoption of the Accounts was agreed by the meeting.
5. Independent Examiner to the Accounts for 2020 – Following discussions at last year's AGM Neil Higham agreed to review the 2019 accounts and JB has confirmed that he is willing to undertake the same task for 2020 accounts. His appointment was agreed by the meeting.
6. Election of Officers and Ordinary Members of the Committee – various nominations had been received for Officers and Committee members.
 - (i) Election of JB as Chairman was proposed by PC, seconded by DH and agreed by the meeting.
 - (ii) Election of PC as Secretary was proposed by JB, seconded by CB-H and agreed by the meeting.
 - (iii) Election of JB as Treasurer was proposed by ME , seconded by TB and agreed by the meeting.
 - (iv) Election of ME as Events Co-ordinator was proposed by JB, seconded by TB and agreed by the meeting.
 - (v) Election of CK as Walks Co-ordinator was proposed by JB, seconded by CC and agreed by the meeting.
 - (vi) Election of DH as webmaster was proposed by JB, seconded by CB-H and agreed by the meeting.
 - (vii) Election of CC as member responsible for Health & Safety and Risk Assessment was proposed by JB, seconded by ME and agreed by the meeting.
 - (vi) Election of TB, CB-H and JG as committee members was proposed by PC, seconded by JB and agreed by the meeting.
7. Future Events and Walks programme –
 - (i) Challenge Events – JB outlined the current situation where we have limited use of indoor spaces for controls and checkpoints and restrictions on the provision of food which will limit what we are able to provide for any challenge event. We await further announcements from NEC but organisation of our next scheduled event, the South Downs Marathon in September is looking difficult. TB added that the restrictions being imposed for hall bookings as well as increased hiring costs are not helping. It was agreed that we needed to take a final decision on the 2021 SDM no later than our next committee meeting in early July.
 - (ii) Social Walks programme – CK has a full programme of scheduled walks to the end of August which will be run in line with NEC guidance in force at the time. He is planning to issue a

request to leaders shortly for Autumn/Winter walks. The Strider deadline is causing difficulty and he proposed to insert a note to the effect that walks would be by invitation (for Sussex Group members only) and when guidance is relaxed to allow other LDWA members to join, walk details would then be put on the Sussex website. It was pointed out that walks could be added to both the national and Group websites as and when they happen. The first post-lockdown walk on 10 April is over-subscribed so CK is trying to use the approach used for the Christmas walk with a second group of walkers being separately led over the same route from a different start point.

(Action: CK)

8. Any other business – RF offered thanks to the Committee members for keeping the Group as active as possible during the current pandemic.

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