**Midweek Wayfarers, A Yorkshire walking group Annual General Meeting**

**Minutes of the 18th AGM held on Friday 8th March 2024 10.30am:**

**@Shipley Library 2 Wellcroft, Shipley. BD18 3QH**

**(31 members in attendance.)**

**Exec Apologies:**

David Webster

1. **Welcome and opening remarks by the Chair Verner Wheelock**
2. **In memorial**. members are asked to remember those who have passed away since our last AGM.

* Dave Blackburn
* Albert Kilburn
* Marlene Lockwood
* Judith Martin
* Val Kimberley
* June James

1. Agreed minutes of the previous AGM held on 31st March 2023 and Matters arising .. **All agreed and accepted.**
2. **Election of officers**: The following officers were proposed and agreed.

* **Chair :** Marc Rocheteau. Proposer : Richard Walker .. Seconder Rodney Seed.
* **Secretary:** Pat Meadows. Proposed by Verner Wheelock…. Seconded by David Webster
* **Treasurer:** David Webster. Proposed by Barry Parker … Seconded by Pat Meadows
* **Webmaster:** Richard Walker. Proposed by Ian Robottom… Seconded by Rod Seed.
* **Agreed:** Barry Parker to continue as financial auditor… proposed by David Webster, seconded Verner Wheelock.

1. **Officers Reports:**
   1. **Chair.** Verner Wheelock. The club is continuing to go from strength to strength with overall numbers growing since its decline in 2020 following covid.

Once again there have been several successful coach trips and holidays arranged, generating some additional income. (£289)

VW is vacating the chair following this meeting, after serving since 2019. There have been many changes under his tenure, including a full re structure of the club , re writing of the constitution and procedures, the progression of the web site and the use of meetup .

Verner expressed his thanks to all exec members and walk leaders for their contributions, and special thanks to Richard Walker for his work on the web site and with meetup.

* 1. **Treasurer (**including finance report and agreement of accounts) ...Barry Parker on behalf of David Webster.

Income: £4381.63. Expenditure: £3672.81 Excess of income over expenditure:£708.82

Accounts indicate that our bank balance has now been restored to pre covid levels, and we have sufficient funds to meet our current and anticipated expenditure. **The accounts were accepted.**

* 1. **Website / meetup development….** Richard Walker.

**Key points:**

***Website****:* functioning as intended, no issues other than time to administer as only RW is doing this. Costs approx. £232 to Inc. to approx £300 next yr.

***Meetup****:* This costs about £200 per year

* It has over 400 members and is growing.
* It has been a great recruitment tool.
* It’s easy to use and run by any members.
* Our Meetup page does everything our web site page does
* Demonstration of Meetups functionality given by RW.
* Meetup feedback rates the site as 4.9 out of 5 Excellent

***The future***: Meetup is much easier to use and offers all the functionality of the website***. Suggest that the exec discuss the possibility of dropping the web site and use only meetup at a saving of over £200 p.a. for 2025.***

1. **Group leaders’ reports:**
   1. **Monday Rod** Seed. Healthy numbers (29 Including, 18 new members via meetup) average 16per walk. £104 generated from £1 occasional walker’s fees from meetup. All members participate in leading walks.

The demographic of the group has changed significantly this year, now much younger with recently retired and younger members, since changing the name of the club and using Meetup.

*Q from floor,* do we have a maximum number on walks, or should we? Not at present and no issues have been raised around numbers to date***. One to monitor over the next year.***

* 1. **Tuesday Central**. Josie Boothroyd for David Webster. Doing ok, 12 average attendance on walks. Only 5-6 walk leaders need to increase this number.
  2. **Tuesday Baildon** Graham & Teresa Hall. 6-10 regular walkers. Struggle on occasions with walk leaders. Some older members have lost confidence in leading. Had some issues with late cancelations on meetup. ***need to monitor this over the next year***.
  3. **Wednesday.** John & Judith Hall…41 full members. Average 20 per walk. Walks planned 3-monthly in advance (Allows for planning of public transport and for communication with those members who do not utilise web site / meetup etc.) Managing ok for walk leaders but could always use more. Held several social events e.g. Christmas lunch, fish and chips walk and charity events (Raised £220 for local Hospice) Also noted that members really enjoy the coach trips organized by VW.
  4. **Thursday 8 milers**. Barry Parker. 26 paid up members (4 new from meetup}, Average 12 per walk. All members contribute to leading walks. Several social / walking events were arranged including Christmas lunch and Hawes holiday. Thanks to JN for organising the Christmas lunch and Meetup input. Use of Whats-app messaging has been very successful to aid communication with regular walkers.
  5. **Thursday 8-10 milers**.. Russell Driver. 10 members (mainly recruited through Meetup). average 8 per walk.

**NB**..RD has not walked since Nov due to an ankle injury, Special thanks given to RW and other members of the Monday group for keeping things going and leading walks.

1. **Agreement of Membership fees for 2025**. Agreed to maintain fees at £10 per member and £1 for day membership. Discussed the reduction in fees by £2 for a couple i.e. £18 per couple, **Agreed to remove this.**
2. **Marketing and Promotion ..** Ian Robottom

Suggestion of a buff, beanie hat or baseball type hat with logo to be produced as a promotional tool.

Cost dependent: could be free to annual members or for a small fee and available to buy for occasional walkers.

Hopefully encourages ownership of the group.

The meeting liked this idea:

***IR ..Requested that group leaders discuss with their members :***

***If happy with this idea:***

***Which item would they prefer?***

***How much would they be prepared to contribute if required?***

***Feedback to exec at next meeting and then discuss a way forward.***

1. **Update on Bradford 2025 City of culture**. Barry Parker is representing the group.

Need ideas for possible events which will promote walking and the club. Little progress to date with BCC will keep exec informed of any progress. Walk leaders may need some training if leading an event***, BP to keep Exec informed of developments.***

1. **Succession planning**… a note to keep promoting the need for members to be involved in the club, a variety of roles are available, and we always need active volunteers.
2. **Informal discussion on future activities.**

Trips Planned to date for 2024:

Ripon April 24th

Lincoln June 6th

Arnside holiday 28th September @ a cost of £405 for 7 days full board

1. **AOB**

V.W. Gave thanks to the exec and a summary of his 4 yr. tenure as chair and formally handed over the chair to M.R.

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B.P. Gave thanks to VW for his service and offered some anecdotes which reflected on his successful tenure.

V.W. was presented with a card and book vouchers from club members as a token of their appreciation for his hard work and dedication over the last 4 years.