

Bingley Walkers are Welcome

Minutes of AGM Meeting

Date: 25th April 2017



Present:

Christine McCabe (Chair), Sue Dennis (Treasurer), Maureen Carney (Secretary),

Ronda Christensen, David Smith, Cedric Farineau, Arthur Baxter.

Michael McCabe, Susan Hart, Christine Smith, Wendy Broadbent, Andrea Ellis, Jur Keessan (Otley WaW), John Sparshatt, Stuart Fildes, Richard Freeman, Vera Dolhan, Gillian McEvan, Jenny Behrendt, Graham Hart, Jenny Greenwood, Jenny Hinsley.

Agenda No.		Action By
1	Welcome and Introduction Christine McCabe - welcome to all and introduction to officers and steering group.	
2	Apologies for Absence: Ros Dawson, Beryl Eakin, Philip Davies MP, Heather Whitehead, Linda Howell, Joy Smith, Dave Ruce (Public Rights of Way Officer)	
3	Minutes of the 2016 AGM and matters arising: <i>Accepted – proposed by David Smith, seconded by Michael McCabe. Carried.</i> The floor was asked if there were any matters arising. None forwarded. Business cards for our group are now available. The Fred Hoyle Walks leaflet is in progress. We now have 5 new walk leaders who have attended the course and 2 more to take the course in May 2017.	

	<p>We would like to record our thanks to Maureen for the work she does as secretary.</p>	
4	<p>Chairpersons Report: Christine McCabe:</p> <p>It's hard to believe it's just over two years since our launch at Bingley Arts Centre in April 2015.</p> <p>I'm sure the rest of the steering group will agree that we are heading in the right in direction and gaining momentum in the town and we now have a regular group walking with us each month with new faces joining us along the way. We were delighted with the very positive comments we received in our Annual Accreditation Review which we received earlier this year.</p> <p>Our successful launch two years ago helped to get our name, not to mention our black and yellow window stickers known in the town and thanks to Cedric Farineau our website has kept everyone up to date with our events as well as other walking related events in the town. We were thrilled to come runners up in the National Walkers are Welcome competition to find the best website, all thanks to our webmaster Cedric who is always on the look out for innovative ideas to keep our readers interested. The latest addition to our website is a section for dog owners giving them ideas where to walk and also dog friendly cafes and pubs. We produced the list in conjunction with our partners Bingley Green Dog.</p> <p>Obviously walking is our main interest and we have been delighted that during the last year we have been able to maintain our monthly Sunday walks and we now have an average of twenty people walking with us every month. These walks take place on the second Sunday in every month. We meet outside Bingley Arts Centre at 10 a.m. and walk for approximately 2 hours. Our walk leaders have been Ronda Christensen, Cedric Farineau and David Smith. My thanks go to them for their time in preparing the walk and leading them. Our Christmas themed walk Paint the Town Red was a success when we encouraged people to wear Santa hats and other Christmas attire and served mulled wine and mince pies in Prince of Wales Park during the walk.</p> <p>However in March of this year the following people all attended a walk leaders course run by Mervyn Flecknoe of Baildon Walkers are Welcome, Heather Weatherhead. Linda Howell, Sue Dennis, Susan Hart, Michael McCabe and myself. We also have Christine and Arthur Baxter attending a course next month which will increase the number of people who can lead our monthly walks.</p> <p>Following the walk we encourage the walkers to have lunch or coffee in the local cafés to support the local businesses and the cafes which are open on a Sunday and all appreciate the number of walkers in town on these days.</p> <p>Following the successful launch of The Welcome Way last June we now sell our Bingley Loop walk leaflets in various outlets in our town and also on various stands at local events.</p> <p>We continue to have links with Bingley Green Dog group who shared a stall with us at last years Bingley Show. We have also had stalls at The Bingley Biathlon event, Baildon Walkers are Welcome weekend and The Welcome Way Launch. This year we will concentrate our efforts on the "Right Royal Do "in Prince of Walks in late</p>	

	<p>May.</p> <p>We had a very successful stall at last years Bingley Canal Festival which attracted huge crowds despite the inclement weather at the start of the day and some of our members dressed in period costume for the event.</p> <p>Our biggest event this year will be our Walking Festival to be held on Bank Holiday Monday May 1st. This will be our first festival so we are concentrating on a one day event but hope to expand this in the future. This has very kindly been sponsored by Bingley Town Council who has funded the posters and flyers which are now available in local shops, cafes and businesses. There will be four walks on offer during the day including a children's walk and also The Sir Fred Hoyle Walk. The Town Council has also provided us with funding to produce a walk leaflet for this walk and we hope to have this in the shops in the next few weeks.</p> <p>We have attended various joint meetings with the Baildon, Otley and Burley in Wharfedale groups and hosted the November meeting at The Brown Cow in Bingley. We also worked alongside them on various initiatives. These include the Bingley Loop of the The Welcome Way which we now sell in leaflet form in local shops and on our stalls at various events in the town. We have also forged links with Diana Greenwood of Bradford Council who on several occasions has promoted our walks in the local press and on social media.</p> <p>Two of our steering group attended the Northern Area get-together at Great Ouseburn last May and thoroughly enjoyed meeting people from other groups and sharing ideas and plans for the future. We plan to send representatives to this year's National Annual General Meeting event which is to be held in Hebden Bridge.</p> <p>A member of Bingley Women's Institute completed our tapestry square depicting the town which was added to the national wall hanging and was on display at Baildon Library last June.</p> <p>We have continued to try and maintain the paths on our walking routes throughout the year and recently done an audit on the Bingley Loop walk.</p> <p>In conclusion I would like to record my thanks to all the members of the steering committee without whose support the group would not have been possible and to all the local business and shopkeepers who have supported us. Our group has been very fortunate in the people who volunteered to come on our steering group as we have all worked very well as a team and long may it continue. We did say a fond farewell to Ros Dawson from our group following her election to the newly formed Bingley Town Council and I would like to record our thanks to Ros for all her support and guidance during our launch period. Later this evening when we hold the election of officers we are hoping that we may be able to recruit a couple more volunteers to our committee.</p>	
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Treasurers Report: Sue Dennis:**Income and Expenditure Account to 31st Dec, 2016:**

Income:	£	Expenditure:	£
Brought Forward	1188.97	Airedale Agricultural Society	95.00
WY Metro	500.00	WaW subs	100.00
R Kunz (Hi Viz Jackets)	50.00	Welcome Way donation	200.00
Luscombes	20.00	Website hosting	47.99
Five Rise Café	25.00	Annual insurance	82.12
Skipton Building Society	100.00	Business cards	60.00
Sale of Loop Leaflets	45.00	Hi-Viz jackets	68.40
Oakwood Hall	25.00	Ordinance Survey Licence	57.00
Sale of Loop Leaflets	122.00	AGM room hire	20.00
Sale of Welcome Way books	84.00	Display board	108.00
Game at Bingley Show	30.50	Bunting	35.99
Donations	22.00	WaW Otley	50.00
History Society books	18.00	Leaflet printing	385.00
Donations (Xmas Walk)	22.52	Tapestry donation	26.98
		Welcome Way (sale of leaflets)	60.00
		Prize at Bingley Show	50.00
		History Society	12.00
		Carried Forward	794.51
TOTAL:	£2252.99	Total:	1458.48

	<p>Since then:</p> <p>£500 donated by BTC</p> <p>£385 to produce 500 copies of “Bingley Loop” walk leaflet – sales continuing.</p> <p>Thanks to R Kunz for sponsoring our high viz jackets.</p> <p>Metro - thanks for a donation of £500.</p> <p>We made donations to Bingley WI for the tapestry square and towards the production of the Welcome Way leaflets.</p> <p>We need to keep up with sponsorship and fundraising to ensure we keep the public aware of our groups and events.</p> <p><i>Proposed to accept report: Susan Hart, seconded by Jenny Hinsley. Carried.</i></p>	
6	<p>Elections of Officers – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer:</p> <p>- See Nomination form for full details.</p> <p>Chairperson – Christine McCabe:</p> <p>Proposed – Susan Hart, Seconded - Wendy Broadbent</p> <p>Secretary - Maureen Carney:</p> <p>Proposed – Wendy Broadbent, Seconded – Andrea Ellis</p> <p>Treasurer – Sue Dennis:</p> <p>Proposed – Andrea Ellis, Seconded – Graham Hart.</p> <p><i>Block Proposed to accept officers’ appointment for 12 months:</i></p> <p><i>Michael McCabe, seconded by David Smith – Carried.</i></p> <p>Steering Group: Ronda Christensen, David Smith, Cedric Farineau, Arthur Baxter:</p> <p><i>Block proposed to accept steering group membership for 12 months - Jenny Hinsley, Seconded by Andrea Ellis – carried.</i></p> <p>New nominations for Steering Group:</p> <p>Jenny Hinsley</p> <p>Christine Smith</p>	

	<p><i>Block Proposed by Sue Dennis, Seconded by Ronda Christensen – carried.</i></p> <p>Andrea Ellis</p> <p>Susan Hart</p> <p><i>Block proposed by Ronda Christensen, Seconded by Cedric Farineau – carried.</i></p>	
6.	<p>Plans for the future including our first Walking Festival: The Steering Group:</p> <p>1st May – Inaugural 1 day Walking Festival</p> <p>21st May - Prince of Wales Park - “A Right Royal Do”.</p> <p>Fred Hoyle Walk leaflet – nearing completion for printing. Thanks to Ronda Christensen for all the work she has done on this.</p> <p>David Smith is working on a Famous People Walk -we look forward to seeing this.</p>	
7.	<p>Website and Facebook Update: Cedric Farineau:</p> <p>I am really pleased with what we have achieved – 6800+ people visited website, 14,000 pages viewed.</p> <p>Bingley Canal Festival – most viewed of all pages this year.</p> <p>60% of traffic from Google, 15% from social media, 15% from those who know the website, 10% from other websites who have a link to our websites.</p> <p>34% from mobile devices, so they are looking at the website whilst “on the go”.</p> <p>Social media – FB – 408 page likes last year, 475 today. Please continue to share. Twitter - 418 people following the page. Thank you to all who send items for the website and please continue.</p> <p>In the next 12 months – talks of creating a newsletter if we can overcome privacy issues. Also, increasing the security of the website.</p> <p>We would also like to add more self – guided walks and keep the calendar of walks updated constantly.</p> <p>Thanks to Cedric for all the work he has put into the website and social media pages this year.</p>	

8.	<p>Open Forum, Comments and Questions:</p> <p>John Sparshatt: Ramblers Holiday Charity Trust, Peak and Northern Footpath Society and the Long Distance Walkers Association are all a good source of funding for creating footpaths and for maintaining walkways.</p> <p>Welcome Way booklets – 750 booklets sold so far, thank you to all who have helped to sell and publicise.</p>	
10	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>None.</p>	
11	<p>Date of next meeting: TBC</p>	