

Bingley Walkers are Welcome

Minutes of AGM Meeting

Date: 17th April 2018



Present:

Christine McCabe (Chair), Sue Dennis (Treasurer), Maureen Carney (Secretary),
 Cedric Farineau, Andrea Ellis, Heather Weatherhead, Susan Hart, Christine Smith,
 Michael McCabe, Wendy Broadbent, Randall Metzger, Tracy Waterhouse, Graham Hart, John Goode,
 John Sparshatt, Richard Freeman, Linda Howell, Jane Pearson, John Pennington, Chris Grogan.

Agenda No.		Action By
1	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Christine McCabe - welcome to all and introduction to officers and committee.</p>	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence:</p> <p>Bob Davidson, Chris Flecknoe, Ann Sandell, Philip Davies, Julie Ramsden, David Smith, Ronda Christensen, Jur Kneesen, Jenny Greenwood, Arthur Baxter, Jenny Hinsley.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the 2017 AGM and matters arising:</p> <p>The floor was asked if there were any matters arising. None forwarded.</p> <p>The Fred Hoyle Walks leaflet are now printed and available at £1.50 each. There are also "Welcome Way" leaflets at the meeting.</p> <p><i>Accepted – Andrea Ellis, seconded by Heather Weatherhead. Carried.</i></p>	

Chairpersons Report: Christine McCabe:

It's hard to believe that it's just over three years since our launch at Bingley Arts Centre in April 2015.

I'm sure the rest of the steering group will agree that we are still heading in the right in direction and gaining momentum in the town with lots of people now recognising our logo and joining our monthly walks. We were delighted with the very positive comments we received in our Annual Accreditation Review which we received earlier this year.

We regularly attend joint meetings with local and national groups and feel that we have much to contribute in terms of ideas and knowledge. Three of our steering group attended the Northern Area get-together in Leeds in February and thoroughly enjoyed meeting people from other groups and sharing ideas and plans for the future. We also sent representatives to last year's National Annual General Meeting event which was held in Hebden Bridge.

We were sorry to lose David Smith from our steering group, but we fully understood his reasons and hope that he will join us on some walks in the future. David was an invaluable committee member in the initial stages of our group and was instrumental in devising several of our walks, both for the website and for our launch and last year's festival. He will be sadly missed.

Our thanks go to Cedric Farineau for our brilliant website which is the envy of others and keeps everyone up to date with our events as well as other walking related events in the town. Cedric will give us updates on the website later this evening but suffice to say he is expanding it all the time with innovative ideas, the latest being a section on Sir Fred Hoyle.

Obviously, walking is our main focus and we have been delighted that during the last year we have been able to maintain our monthly Sunday walks - we now have an average of fifteen to twenty people walking with us every month. It goes without saying that we were thrilled with a turn -out of thirty-five walkers on our January walk! 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, Sue Dennis, Linda Howell, Susan Hart

and Michael McCabe. My thanks go to them for their time in preparing the walk and leading them and to all the members of our committee who have provided back up on the walks.

Most of our walks finish in the town centre when many walkers go to the local cafes. Our December walk finished at Tarquin's Tea Rooms in Myrtle Park, where the staff there provided walkers with complimentary mince pies. A good example of us helping to improve footfall in our town.

We continue to work alongside our partners Bingley Green Dog Walkers, who do a great job in keeping our footpaths and urban areas clean.

We had a stall at the "Right Royal Do" in Prince of Wales Park in late May last year and this year we have one at both Bingley Town Council AGM and also at the Bingley Canal Festival on May 19th.

Our biggest event last year was our Walking Festival, held on Bank Holiday Monday May 1st. This was very kindly sponsored by Bingley Town Council, who funded the posters and flyers. There were four walks on offer during the day including a children's walk and The Sir Fred Hoyle Walk. In total, we had over 150 adults and children on the four walks. The weather was kind to us and we were all thrilled with our first walking festival. We are currently in the process of promoting our second festival which will be on Monday May 7th and this year we have five walks on offer including a longer ten-mile walk.

The Town Council also provided us with funding to produce a "Sir Fred Hoyle Walks" leaflet and this is now for sale in local shops and cafes, priced £1.50. I would like to offer my thanks regarding this publication to Maureen Carney and Sue Dennis, whose patience with regard to the proof reading of the booklet was very much appreciated.

We have attended various joint meetings with the Baildon, Otley and Burley-in-Wharfedale groups. We have also forged links with Diana Greenwood of Bradford Council, who ran a Social Media Course earlier this year for the local Walkers are Welcome groups.

Local connections include a charity walk we led for our local Soroptimists International group and we also hosted a visit to Bingley by a group of walkers from Kirkby Stephen Walkers are Welcome. We have linked in with Costa Coffee in Bingley who are more than happy to promote any of our walks and events on their community notice

board.

In November of last year, representatives from our steering group spent the day at St Ives, our local beauty spot, filming for an ITV programme called "Britain's 100 Best Walks" which was screened earlier this year with host Julia Bradbury.

Publicity wise, we have been featured in several small articles in the Telegraph and Argus as well as a large colour double page spread about walking in the Bradford area.

We have continued to try and maintain the paths on our walking routes throughout the year and we have an excellent relationship with BradMet's Rights of Way Officer Danny Jackson.

We were approached by The Pickles Pubs chain to help them produce a walk booklet containing eleven walks starting and finishing at their various pubs. This initiative is now in its final stages and we look forward to seeing the fruits of our labours in due course.

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. 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, especially with those new members who joined us after last year's AGM and long may it continue. Also of course my thanks go to all the local business and shopkeepers who have supported us.

Proposed to accept report: Christine Smith; seconded by Cedric Farineau. Carried

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5	<p>Treasurers Report: Sue Dennis:</p> <p>Income and Expenditure Account to 31st Dec, 2017:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">Income:</th> <th style="width: 15%;">£</th> <th style="width: 30%;">Expenditure:</th> <th style="width: 15%;">£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Brought Forward</td> <td style="text-align: right;">856.51</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bingley Loop leaflets</td> <td style="text-align: right;">95.00</td> <td>Walkers are Welcome Subs</td> <td style="text-align: right;">100.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Donations - Festival and Misc.</td> <td style="text-align: right;">72.13</td> <td>Printing and Artwork (Festival)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">250.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bingley Town Council Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">500.00</td> <td>Room Hire – AGM</td> <td style="text-align: right;">20.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Annual Insurance</td> <td style="text-align: right;">82.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1523.64</td> <td>Total:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">452.50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Balance at Bank:</td> <td style="text-align: right;">1071.14</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>As you will see, we ended our third year of activity with £1071.14 in the bank as at December 31st, 2017. However, a word of caution. The £500.00 grant from Bingley Town Council was to help with the costs of our 1st Walking Festival and the printing of the Fred Hoyle Walks leaflets. The latter totalled £450.00 and will appear in next year’s accounts, as will the 2017 website costs of £47.99.</p> <p>We sold £95.00 worth of Bingley Loop leaflets in 2017 and including the sponsorship received for the project are now within £3.00 of covering the printing costs.</p> <p>Expenditure in 2017 was largely limited to what I call “Standard Outgoings” – Walkers are Welcome subs, AGM costs and insurance.</p> <p>The sale of walk leaflets alone is unlikely to cover these overheads year on year, so we will have to continue to attract sponsorship and donations or be successful in obtaining grants if we are to continue to</p>			Income:	£	Expenditure:	£	Brought Forward	856.51			Bingley Loop leaflets	95.00	Walkers are Welcome Subs	100.00	Donations - Festival and Misc.	72.13	Printing and Artwork (Festival)	250.00	Bingley Town Council Grant	500.00	Room Hire – AGM	20.00			Annual Insurance	82.50					Total:	1523.64	Total:	452.50	Balance at Bank:	1071.14		
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	<p>operate in the relatively high file manner we have done hitherto.</p> <p>Any questions?</p> <p>Q: Who are Bingley WaW insured by?</p> <p>A: (Sue Dennis) Zurich</p> <p><i>Proposed to accept report: Andrea Ellis, seconded by Susan Hart - Carried.</i></p>	
6	<p>Elections of Officers – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer:</p> <p>Chairperson – Christine McCabe:</p> <p>Secretary - Maureen Carney:</p> <p>Treasurer – Sue Dennis:</p> <p><i>Block Proposed to accept officers’ appointment for 12 months: Heather Weatherhead, seconded by Andrea Ellis– Carried.</i></p> <p>Election of Steering Group:</p> <p>Ronda Christensen, Cedric Farineau, Arthur Baxter, Jenny Hinsley, Christine Smith, Andrea Ellis, Heather Weatherhead, Susan Hart</p> <p><i>Block proposed to accept steering group membership for 12 months - Wendy Broadbent, seconded by Michael McCabe – carried.</i></p>	
6.	<p>Plans for the future including our second Walking Festival: The Committee:</p> <p>2nd Walking Festival - Monday 7th May. We will be leading 5 walks - Family, Mystery History, Long, Bingley/Saltaire and Micklethwaite. 150 people attended our 4 walks last year so this year we decided to extend to 5 walks.</p> <p>Bingley Canal Festival - Saturday 19th May. We will be leading 2 walks – a Family Walk and the Fred Hoyle Urban Walk.</p> <p>Bingley Town Council AGM – Thursday 26th April. We have a display table at this event at Mornington Rd Methodist Church.</p> <p>Cllr John Goode: – Bingley WaW suggested that it would be good to</p>	

	<p>have some improvements to the train station. This has been very successful as the “Action Stations” group of volunteers were formed and are now receiving grants to continue their work.</p>	
7.	<p>Website and Facebook Update: Cedric Farineau:</p> <p>I’m pleased to announce that when I compare website traffic from April 2017 to April 2018, there has been an increase. We had approximately 6000 sessions to the website (spent up to 30 minutes on website) in 2017 and this has risen to 14000 in 2018. Most of this is from people searching for us on Google.</p> <p>Facebook and Twitter also bring a lot of visitors to the website. On Twitter, we at present have 527 followers and on Facebook 596 followers.</p> <p>The Walking Festival should bring more traffic to both our social media and website. We are also promoting local businesses as they are named on our website, in exchange for showing our sticker in their window.</p> <p>I have also moved to a new hosting company which is a bit cheaper and may lead to us being able to create a newsletter.</p>	
8.	<p>Open Forum, Comments and Questions:</p> <p>Comment: The website is very good – it is very up to date. Excellent in comparison with others.</p> <p>Q: Because the walks start and finish in Bingley, there walks are on occasions repeated. Does anyone have any negative views on this repetition?</p> <p>A: (Chair) They could be rotated to be walked in different seasons, but the general feeling is that the walks are varied because there are different people on each one.</p> <p>Q: Could we have a section on the website where walkers can put feedback?</p> <p>A: (Cedric Farineau) There is an open comment area on each walk and have our contact form, but we could encourage and publicise this. I list all the guided walks on the page, so we could ask the contacts</p>	

	<p>how many people came, etc.</p> <p>Suggestion: You could use public transport and “bus out” the group and then walk back for a variation.</p> <p>Q: The walks are usually around 2 hours in length, but last week it did go on for 3 hours. It would be good to have a longer walk on some occasions but it did cause some difficulties as the walkers did not know in advance.</p> <p>A: (Chair) Thank you for your suggestions. We will look at these points in the future as a committee.</p> <p>Q Have you had any feedback on the Bingley Loop/Welcome Way?</p> <p>A: (Cedric Farineau) Not on our website, but I make sure that it is on the website and check other relevant websites. It is being well publicised and getting interest.</p>	
10	<p>Any other business:</p> <p>Randall Metzger – Otley WaW – Speaking on behalf of National WaW:</p> <p>Some feedback on the national scene – 107 towns and villages are now WaW accredited. The Northern region alone has 26 towns and villages, mainly from Yorkshire, from Kirkby Stephen to Sheffield. We have the highest representation of any county in the UK. There are now many different networking events in Yorkshire between the groups in the region. Very lucky as Otley (now celebrating our 10th anniversary), Burley-In-Wharfedale, Baildon and Bingley are going from strength to strength.</p> <p>On Sunday 18th November, Otley are hosting a “Walking Fair”. This will be a large event held in Otley Courthouse and we will be displaying walks from across the region. Bingley WaW will be given all the details.</p> <p>National WaW now have a new website, on which all towns are invited and authorised to put information on about their group. This includes photos and walk details.</p> <p>Our local groups have been meeting together several times a year for the last two years, and now other groups have started following our lead.</p> <p>We have recently lost some people on the national committee and</p>	

	<p>are appealing for more to join us.</p> <p>There are always new applications received by towns to become a WaW town. We did a survey of all WaW towns and villages, asking for details about their walks which we published.</p> <p>WaW towns and villages in Scotland are using a promotion drive.</p> <p>It is great to see Bingley WaW doing so well. In particular, your website is very good and comprehensive.</p> <p>Talk by Chris Grogan – “The Dales High Way”</p>	
11	Date of next meeting: TBC	