

Bingley Walkers are Welcome

Minutes of AGM Meeting

Date: 15th October 2025



Agenda No.	Attendees:
	Christine McCabe, Maureen Carney, Michael McCabe, Sue Dennis, Susan Hart, John Kata, David Hanson
1	<p>Welcome and Introduction</p> <p>Christine McCabe - welcome to all and introduction to officers and committee. Special thanks to those who have travelled further. Housekeeping announcements as required.</p>
2	<p>Apologies for Absence: Sarah Njeri, Andrea Ellis Jenny Hinsley Cedric Farineau</p>
3	<p>Minutes of the 2024 AGM and matters arising:</p> <p>The floor was asked if there were any matters arising from the meeting on 17.10.24. None forwarded.</p> <p><i>Accepted – Proposed by John Kata, seconded by Michael McCabe. Carried.</i></p>
4	<p>Chair’s Annual Report – Christine McCabe:</p> <p>This year we celebrate our tenth anniversary as a Walkers are Welcome town and I feel we are still rising to the challenge.</p> <p>We get an average of 28 walkers on our Sunday walks and even the warm weather we have enjoyed this summer doesn’t seem to deter our regular walkers. Walkers have joined us from Keighley, Leeds, Crosshills and Brighouse, some of them using public transport.</p> <p>I’m sure our steering group will agree that we are still heading in the right direction and gaining momentum in the town with more and more people now recognising our logo and joining our monthly walks.</p> <p>Our walk leaders have been Cedric Farineau, David Hanson, John Kata, Sue Dennis, Linda Howell, Sarah Njeri and Michael McCabe. My thanks go to them for their time in preparing the walks and the necessary risk assessments. Also to all the members of our committee and regular walkers who have provided back up on the walks.</p> <p>There were no negative comments on our Annual Return feedback form this year and my thanks go to Sue for all her hard work in compiling this annual document</p> <p>Some of the initiatives we have undertaken this last year include:</p> <p>Christmas Tree Festival:</p> <p>As always my thanks go to Susan and Andrea for once again promoting our group at the Bingley Parish Church Christmas Tree festival in December.</p> <p>Bradford 2025 Millennium Walks:</p> <p>In February we led one of sixteen Bradford Millennium walks celebrating the city’s Capitol of Culture status. Cedric and John led the walks which went clockwise and anticlockwise and attracted no less than sixty walkers. The series of walks also included walks led by other WaW groups along with various other walking</p>

groups in the city.

Anna Dixon's Carers Walk:

As in 2023 we took part in the Bingley to Saltaire section of this walk and thanks go to David Hanson, Cedric Farineau, Jenny Hinsley and Susan Hart for their support.

Bradford 2025 , Bradford on Foot:

Yet another Bradford 2025 initiative saw us hosting a "Bradford on Foot" walk at St Ives led by Sue. Although numbers were small the walk was enjoyed by all and we received some very welcome funding for participating. Susan Hart gave some interesting historical facts about the estate during the walk which were appreciated by all.

Bingley Heritage Trail :

As stakeholders we were involved from the onset of this exciting project and I attended monthly meetings. The Heritage Trail was launched as part of our September walk on Heritage Open weekend. Thanks to Cedric who led the morning walk and Sue who lead the additional afternoon walk. In total over 70 people walked with us.

8th Walking Festival:

Once again our biggest event was our eighth Walking Festival held on Bank Holiday Monday May 5th, as part of the Bingley 2025 celebrations. There were five walks on offer during the day including, a long distance linear walk to Bradford Cathedral led by Cedric and John to tie in with Bradford 2025. Following this Sarah led a Goit Stock walk and Sue St Ives and Harden Moor.

We were joined by two fairies on the Away with the Fairies Walk led by Michael and finally Linda led our Art Walk which attracted over 60 people, many curious to visit artist Jane Fielder's house as part of the walk.

In total over two hundred walkers took part in the five walks We received some funding from Bingley Bubble to help with printing costs. We also received sponsorship and customised water bottles from Specsavers.

Publicity:

We have been featured in articles in the Telegraph and Argus and promoted our festival walks on the Visit Bradford website and It's on in Bradford. Whilst on the subject of publicity my thanks go to Susan for her part in the upkeep of our town centre noticeboard.

During our festival I was interviewed by BCB Radio re our involvement in the weekend.

We had a stall at Bingley Market in April prior to the festival which proved an excellent way of connecting with other local groups and the general public. This will hopefully be repeated next year along with a stall at Damart where Bingley Creates now have a monthly local community groups stall.

In November for the second time our Treasurer Sue Dennis laid a wreath at the town's Remembrance Day service.

Meetings:

We continue to attend joint meetings with our counterparts in Baildon, Burley and Otley.

We instigated having the 2025 National Get-Together at Bingley Arts Centre and plans are well in hand for this event which will take place next week.

Networking Meetings: On an ongoing basis we are represented at a Community Group Networking event held by Bingley Town Council and we are also attending regular Bradford 2026 planning meetings for Bingley. We also attend regular Bingley Creates meetings.

Supporters:

As always we have sadly lost some supporters but at the same time adding several new ones to our list including The Deli, The Brick Bank Café, Galo's Kitchen and Olive Lounge Travel.

My thanks especially go to Cedric Farineau for our brilliant website which is still flourishing and keeps everyone up to date with our events, as well as other walking related events in the town. Also to John who looks after Facebook and Instagram on behalf of the group.

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. In particular to Maureen our Secretary who never fails to amaze us with the speed in which she produces faultless minutes. Also of course to our Treasurer Sue who meticulously looks after our accounts.

Our group has been very fortunate in the people who volunteered to come on our steering group. Sadly we lost Linda Howell from our steering group recently but she will continue to support the group when she can. I would like to record our thanks to Linda for her commitment and enthusiasm for our group.

We have all worked very well as a team and long may it continue. Also of course my thanks go to all the local businesses and shopkeepers who have supported us.

Christine McCabe.

Chair Bingley Walkers are Welcome.

October 2025

Proposed to accept the report – David Hanson, Seconded by Michael McCabe; Carried.

5 Treasurer's Annual Report: Sue Dennis:

BINGLEY WALKERS ARE WELCOME
Income & Expenditure Account to 26/09/25

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Brought forward	494.03	Annual Subs 2025	110.00
Bingley Bubble	300.00	Zurich Insurance	56.00
Donations (Angie S)	15.00	Form & Flow - Festival	308.00
Cash Donations - Festival	141.60	C Farineau – Website	37.28
Five Rise	44.00	Cottingley Fairy	20.00
Just Giving	180.96		
F Hoyle (5 various)	7.50		
Bradford on Foot	1000.00		
Five Rise Café	44.00		
Bingley Town Council	400.00		
Get – together payments	960.00		
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	3587.09		531.28
Balance at bank	£3055.81		

£680.00 received for get together since last bank statement

To pay out	£504	WaW signage in Bingley
	£ 90	Otley for Welcome Way Books
	£500	Arts Centre Hire
	£938	Food at Get Together
	£ 75	Silsden MVC
	£100 approx.	Profit split with B, B & O

Remaining balance £1529 approx

This concludes my report but I would be very happy to try to answer any questions.

Sue Dennis

Treasurer Bingley Walkers are Welcome

October 2025

	<i>Proposed to accept the report by Michael McCabe; Seconded by John Kata; Carried.</i>
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: David Hanson, Seconded by Susan Hart – Carried.</i></p> <p>Election of Steering Group:</p> <p>Andrea Ellis has stepped down from the Committee but will continue with the Xmas Tree Exhibition. We record our thanks to Andrea for all her work.</p> <p>Cedric Farineau, Arthur Baxter, Jenny Hinsley, Susan Hart, David Hanson, John Kata, Sarah Njeri.</p> <p><i>Block proposed to accept steering group membership for 12 months – Proposed by Maureen Carney, seconded by Sue Dennis – carried.</i></p>
7	<p>Plans for the future:</p> <p>A Committee meeting tonight to discuss the future, including:</p> <p>National Get Together</p> <p>Remembrance Sunday</p> <p>Christmas Walk</p> <p>2026 plans</p>
8	<p>Website and Social Media Update: Cedric Farineau/John Kata</p> <p>Reporting analytics for Google has changed - all views have increased - 34% for users, 37% for events, but the event per user is down.</p> <p>More users to the website but interacting less, but the time being spent on the website by each use is increasing. Goit Stock, St Ives, Bingley Walk, 5 Rise Locks, monthly walks are most popular.</p> <p>Facebook increased users by 130. Instagram followers increased by 40.</p> <p>More work to do but the overall engagement is positive.</p> <p>Thanks to Cedric and John for all the hard work.</p>

9	Open Forum, Comments and Questions: None given.
10.	Any other business: None forwarded.
11	Meeting closed at 7.20pm Date of next meeting: October 2026, TBC.