Bingley Walkers are Welcome
Minutes of AGM Meeting
Date: 11th November 2026

Agenda No.	Attendees:
	Christine McCabe, Maureen Carney, Michael McCabe, Sue Dennis, Susan Hart, Jenny Hinsley, John Kata, Cedric Farineau, Tracy Waterhouse
1	**Welcome and Introduction** Christine McCabe is in attendance but Sue Dennis is chairing the meeting. Welcome to all and introduction to officers and committee. Special thanks to those who have travelled further. Housekeeping announcements as required.
2	**Apologies for Absence: David Hanson, Sarah Njeri**
3	**Minutes of the 2025 AGM and matters arising:** The floor was asked if there were any matters arising from the meeting on 15.10.25. None forwarded. *Accepted – Proposed by JK, seconded by JH. Carried.*
4	**Chair's Annual Report – Christine McCabe:** This year we celebrate our eleventh anniversary as a Walkers are Welcome town and I feel we are still rising to the challenge. We get an average of 30 walkers on our Sunday walks and even the warm weather we have enjoyed this summer doesn't seem to deter our regular walkers. 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. Our walk leaders have been Cedric Farineau, David Hanson, John Kata, Sue Dennis, Sarah Njeri, Richard Driver and Patrick Caulfield. 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 but especially Tracy Waterhouse and Jenny Hinsley. 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. Some of the initiatives we have undertaken this last year include: Christmas Tree Festival: As always my thanks go to Susan for once again promoting our group at the Bingley Parish Church Christmas Tree festival in December.

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.

9th Walking Festival:

Once again our biggest event was our ninth Walking Festival held on Bank Holiday Monday May 4th. There were five walks on offer during the day including, a long distance walk to the Harden Valley led by Cedric and John. Following this Sarah led To the Trig Point and Back and Sue our favourite Micklethwaite walk. David took walkers along the River Aire to Roberts Park and Heather led the Bingley Heritage Walk. In total over one hundred and fifty walkers took park in the five walks and We 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 to Susan for her part in the upkeep of our town centre noticeboard. The noticeboard has recently been refurbished and we now share it with Bingley Creates and other community groups.

We had a stall at Damart 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 .

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

Other Initiatives:

In March we led the Edwina Simpson Memorial walk. A community walk in memory of a much loved Bingley Councillor.

In mid June John Kata led a training Course for new walk leaders and backups. As a result of this we now have Patrick Caulfield and Richard Driver w to lead our walks and Tracy Waterhouse and Gail McAllister to act as backups. My thanks go to John for all his hard work on this initiative.

John and Cedric led a walk for the Otley Walking Festival.

Seven of our steering group were involved in leading and acting as marshals at the very successful Pennine Gateway Walk launch in September.

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 the whole weekend was a huge success. It brought delegates from far and wide to our town. Our new WaW signs at the station and Jubilee Gardens were much admired.

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 2027 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.

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 Andrea Ellis in the past year but she will continue to support the group when she can. I would like to record our thanks to Andrea for her commitment and enthusiasm.

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

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Proposed to accept the report – JK, Seconded by JH; Carried.

5 **Treasurer's Annual Report: Sue Dennis:**

Very successful year due to Bradford City of Culture Year.

BINGLEY WALKERS ARE WELCOME
Income & Expenditure Account to 31/12/25

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	AC McCabe (dep – food)	300.00
F Hoyle (5 various)	7.50	Jess Wright (Signage)	504.00
Bradford on Foot	1000.00	BLT (Room Hire)	425.00
Five Rise Café	44.00	Get together Reg CM/SD/SH	60.00
Bingley Town Council	400.00	R Stageman (bal of food)	500.00
Get – together payments	1740.00	Libertas (entertainment)	75.00
1 x FH & 1 x WW	7.50	Get together tea/coffee etc	88.12
		Wreath – remembrance	25.00
		Profit share, B, B in W, O	263.91
		Otley Welcome Way (16)	96.00
		Christmas Tree Baubles	9.98
	4374.59		2878.29

Balance at bank £1496.30

	As you will see we ended our eleventh year of activity with £1496.30 in the bank as at 31st December 2025, having started the year with £494.03 Had it not been for a very generous donation from Bradford on Foot – a spin off of the 2025 City of Culture – given to us and other local walking groups for hosting various days of guided walks, we would have been in a break even situation. However, the situation now is that we can hopefully maintain our current level of activity for several years without undue financial pressure. As well as the very welcome donations received during our 2025 Annual Celebration of Walking £337.56 – slightly up on 2024, and walk leaflet sales £103.00, slightly down on 2024, we received £300 from the Bingley Bubble which virtually covered the cost of the publicity material for the Walking Festival, and £400 from the ever supportive Bingley Town Council towards the costs of the Walkers are Welcome signage outside the railway station and Arts Centre. The highlight of 2025 was hosting the Annual National Walkers are Welcome 'Get-together' in Bingley – working in conjunction with Baildon, Burley in Wharfedale and Otley. Despite gloomy predictions from our co-hosts, the weekend made a small profit and each group received £87.97 as their 'dividend' That concludes my report but I would be very happy to try to answer any questions. Sue Dennis Treasurer Bingley Walkers are Welcome November 2026 *Proposed to accept the report by CF; Seconded by JK; Carried.*
6	**Elections of Officers – Chair, Secretary and Treasurer:** **Chairperson** – Christine McCabe **Secretary** - Maureen Carney **Treasurer** – Sue Dennis *Block Proposed to accept officers' appointment for 12 months: JK, Seconded by SH – Carried.* **Election of Steering Group:** Arthur Baxter – now stepped down as committee. We send our thanks and best wishes. Cedric Farineau, Jenny Hinsley, Susan Hart, David Hanson, John Kata, Sarah Njeri Tracy Waterhouse agreed to join committee - proposed by SH, Seconded by JH, Carried. *Block proposed to accept steering group membership for 12 months – Proposed by Maureen Carney, seconded by Sue Dennis – carried.*

7	**Plans for the future:** A Committee meeting tonight to discuss the future, including: Plan for 2027 – Celebration of Walking & Walk Leaders
8	**Website and Social Media Update: Cedric Farineau** Since 2023, I've introduced a new method to show data through our web analytics. Sessions and Page views are no more; Users and Events are the new norm since we've upgraded to Google Analytics 4 back in 2023. 2023: 35,756 users, 226,513 events and 6.34 events/user 2024: 47,831 users (+33.8%), 264,900 events (+16.9%) and 5.55 events/user (-12.5%) 2025: 50,577 users (+6.1%), 220,995 events (-16.3%) and 4.37 events/user (-21.2%) **Looking at 2026 up to 11th November:** 40,279 users (-9.9%) and 181,226 events (-6.2%) and 4.5 events/user (+4.1%) Since 2023, we've been getting more users but they seem to interact less with the website. Having said that the number of interactions per user (events) is still really good and proves people are finding the website useful. 2026 (up to 11th Nov) most Popular content – Goit Stock #1; Homepage #2; St.Ives #2; Bingley Walks #4; Five Rise Locks #5; Bingley Celebration of Walking #6; Visiting Bingley #7; St. David's Ruin #8; Monthly Walks #9; Café, Pubs & Restaurants #10; **Social Media:** And Meta (Facebook + Instagram) Insights have also changed! Number of "People reached" on our page is no more, instead we have: "Views" - The number of times your content was played or displayed. and "Interactions" - The number of likes or reactions, saves, comments, shares and replies. Facebook: Currently 2,184 followers (1,847 at last AGM) 2026 (up to 11th Nov): 282,607 Views (+43.3%); 2,394 Interactions (-20.1%) 2025 (up to 11th Oct): 142,647 Views; 2,295 Interactions Instagram (2022: launch of Instagram) Currently 325 followers (286 followers at last AGM) 2026 (up to 11th Nov): 50,899 Views (+2600%); 173 Interactions (+343%) 2025 (up to 11th Oct): 1,656 Views; 55 Interactions Thanks from all the committee to Cedric and John for all the hard work.
9	**Open Forum, Comments and Questions:** None given.

10.	**Any other business:** None forwarded.
11	**Meeting closed at 7.18pm** **Date of next meeting: October/November 2027, TBC.**