

WEST CORNWALL FOOTPATHS PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Marazion Community Centre, Monday 1st July 2024, at 11.00am

PRESENT: Maggie Bashford, Mike Bateman, Denise Belton, Richard Belton, Clare Bennett, John Bennett, Penny Bowey, David Cooper, Annie Denning, Yvonne Davies, Mandy Eddy, Thorold Eddy, Kathy Fairey, John Heath, Ginnie Hignett, Jill James, James Johns, Judy Knowles, Bella Morgan, Susan Pester, John Rogers, Glenys Rogers, Eric Smith, Nicky Smith, David Szlitkus, Ruth Towse, Colin Vickers, Richard Wainwright, Shirley Wainwright

1. Apologies received: Jim Arymar, Diane Baker, Moira Cassidy, Margaret Cooper, Mike Cox, Dot Davies, Peter Ellsley, David Hignett, Maggi Livingstone, Kath Lewis, Ann Owen, Ken Sharp, Michael Styles, Anne Bosustow Tryhorn, Geoff Webster, Mike Wilson

2. Chairman's Welcome and Report - Richard Belton

a) Richard thanked the members of the Executive Committee for their support and hard work over the past year. He also thanked walks leaders, helpers at social events and members who attended the walks, path clearing and social events.

b) This year has seen the continuation of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, including

i. St Michael's Way walk on 1 July 2023 led by Annie Denning. A good turnout with most starting in Lelant but a few joining the group at the Cornishman pub in St Ives.

ii. A memorial bench for Winifred White has been placed in Ludgvan churchyard with the kind permission of Canon Nigel Marns, who obtained the approval of the church committee to have the bench sited there. The project was managed by Shirley Wainwright who did an excellent job of obtaining the necessary permissions, selecting the style of bench and having it installed. One of Winifred's relatives has been in touch - Tamasin Gray who lives in Scotland. Her mother, Winifred's daughter, is 86 and is also living in Scotland. We hope they will be in contact again when they visit Cornwall next.

Richard showed slides of the bench and the inauguration ceremony. Ruth Towse (from the floor) applauded both, saying how tasteful they were.

iii. Walk Book – we now have 90 walks in the book. Each one consists of a set of self-guided notes, a .gpx file for a smart phone app. Where the walk was from the original 1962/73 Walk Book it includes the original text and map. John Heath has also extended the website to include all 90 walks in web page format. We have a brochure to promote the walk book. The first 1,000 copies were distributed to Penzance and St Ives Tourist Offices along with local hotels, B&Bs and Penzance Youth Hostel. This year it has had a couple of minor revisions and a further 2,000

have been printed. There is also a poster. Members were invited to take leaflets which were available on the table.

iv. Tinnners' Way Waymarking – last year we wrote to Cornwall Council in the hope that they would mark the Tinnners' Way. They have not replied and so we have a project under way to waymark the route ourselves. The Ramblers and Horse Society were also approached, but have not shown any interest. We have selected a route and are currently surveying it. The project is anticipated to cost about £500. If the cost exceeds this, we will be raising money from sources such as local councils or sponsorship by commercial organisations.

Slides were shown of the selected route, and possible sign - any suggestions for the sign would be welcomed.

Mandy Eddy questioned the cost of furniture, and was told that we believe PLP had granite posts available for this, but they could raise further problems, such as transport etc. The survey was ascertaining how many posts would be needed, which hopefully Cormac will provide.

Excess from the Boat Trip would be put towards the cost.

A question was raised that if WCFPS name was on the signs, would that make us responsible for the health and safety of the walkers? Or as a right of way, is that already covered by CC? To be looked into.

Action RB

v. History of the Society – Half a League Onwards – this has been updated with a new “Chapter 4 - 2003 to 2023”, Appendix E “River Hayle” and Appendix F – “Mrs Winifred White”. There is also a recording of an interview given by our Chairman to Coast Radio.

c) Special mention was made to members who had made an outstanding contribution to the Platinum Jubilee Year

i. Shirley Wainwright - for leading the Tinnners' Way walk and erecting the bench.

ii. David Szlitkus - for the bench plinth.

iii. Fred Gendall - for the Historic and Curious Walk on 2 Jan 2024, contributing to the Walk Book and volunteering on every occasion.

iv. Colin Vickers - for his contribution to the Walk Book

v. John Heath - for uploading all the Walk Book to the web site and for re-drafting the constitution.

vi. Kathy Fairey - for organising “Up the Creek”

d) Richard explained that there is now a standard set of email addresses for committee members – which can be the easiest way to contact the relevant person –

- i. Secretary@wcfps.co.uk - forwarded to Shirley
- ii. DMMO@wcfps.co.uk - forwarded to David
- iii. Socialsec@wcfps.co.uk - forwarded to Denise
- iv. Chairman@wcfps.co.uk - forwarded to Dick
- v. Walksec@wcfps.co.uk - forwarded to Clare
- vi. Memsec@wcfps.co.uk - forwarded to Kathy
- vii. ROW@wcfps.co.uk - forwarded to John - but Jill from now on
- viii. enquiries@wcfps.co.uk - forwarded to John Heath

Red welly – as part of AOB at the end of the meeting nominations for this year's red welly award would be accepted.

3. Approval of Minutes of AGM held on Monday 26 June 2023

Proposed by John Rogers

Seconded by Ruth Towse

Approved by the members present and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

2 (b) Chairman to write a letter to Gwinear and District Footpath and Bridleways Association expressing our thanks. Complete

2 (c) Chairman to write to Cornwall Council regarding waymarking the Tinnars' Way. Complete

11. Any Other Business - Memorial Bench. Siting of the memorial Bench in Penzance to be discussed by the Committee. Complete

11. Any Other Business - Memorial Map. A suggestion that the location of the Winifred White Memorial Map could be in Morrab Library. Enquiries to be made by RB.

Enquiries were made but no staff members could identify the map. Some suggestions were made but they did not lead to the map being found. The conclusion is that the map is permanently lost.

5. Treasurer's Report - Kathy Fairey

Kathy reported that she'd now been undertaking the role of Treasurer for 10 years

The membership subscriptions have come in with the majority reaching the bank account on the 1st June. There are, however, 65 subscriptions still outstanding. She has an up to date list of non payment if any member is not sure and would like clarification.

At the start of the financial year a bank balance of £3,832.78 was carried forward.. Our annual income amounted to £7,126.71 made up of subscriptions of £1,047.00 and collection from AGM of £25.00, Ramblers Walking Partnership referrals of £70.00, Leaders Day collection of £115.00 and Tinnars Way Coach payments of £60.00, and a £100 donation from a supporter. The payments for the Xmas dinner came to £997.50. We were very fortunate to receive a donation of funds from The Gwinear & District Walking Club, who closed their Group, of £4,712.21. The expenditure for this year was £4,304.79 - this was made up from Hall Hire of £120.00, Howden Sports Insurance of £316.24, expenses for tea, coffee, cakes, pasties etc of £434.24, expenses for stamps for mailing out walking lists and other office type expenses of £217.92, payment to The Old Quay House for Xmas dinner of £997.50, Headland Printers & Borscach for Walk Book Leaflets of £430.00, Ramblers Affiliation fee of £73.50, annual hosting of website £50.00 and donations to Members day entertainment of £50.00, FT Williams Coach Hire for Tinnars Way walk of £240.00, Donation to Cornwall Wildlife Trust for Bartinney Downs of £500.00, Hi Vis vests for Walk Leaders of £34.67, Memorial Bench at Ludgvan Church expenses of £705.72 and deposit for Boat Trip of £135.00. A full list of expenses is available. We ended the financial year up by £2,821.92 leaving us with a bank balance of £6,654.70.

There were a number of questions raised from the floor, the first being how were the excess funds going to be spent? Kathy replied that the money had to be spent on the membership, and if anything major was planned then the members would be asked. Thorold Eddy pointed out that the large amount was an unusual situation and that we should be aware of it as such.. Glenys Rogers reported that in the past John Rogers has had to face public enquiries defending footpaths going through proposed house extensions etc. without the aid of a barrister, unlike the householder, and therefore losing the case. John Heath pointed out that the Constitution lays out how money should be spent, and suggested that the membership should be asked for ideas close to WCFPS ideals, which could be discussed at the next committee meeting. **Action RB**

6. Membership Secretary's Report - Kathy Fairey

During the membership year 2022/2023 we have taken on 44 new members, 35 members were removed from the list. At the end of the Membership year we had 380 members. We still have members without email addresses (approximately 50) who therefore receive their walks list through the post. If any of these members now have an email address Kathy would be grateful if they would let her know in order to cut postal costs which are rising annually.

Susan Pester asked whether if the postal member no longer walked, maybe they should stop receiving the programme. Kathy felt that as members they were entitled to receive a programme whether they walked or not.

7. Social Secretary's Report - Denise Belton

Over the summer of 2023, there were no social events except afternoon tea at The Commercial Hotel in St Just, following the Tinnners' Way walk.

In October, 19 members met for dinner at the Sea Palace Chinese restaurant in Penzance.

In November there was a Platinum Jubilee Day held at Marazion Community Centre. A well-attended event with a pasty lunch and two interesting presentations.

In November there was a curry night at the Gurkha in Falmouth attended by 14 members.

The Christmas Lunch was held at The Old Quay House attended by only 35 members, a drop of 50%; numbers sadly much lower than previous years. Denise would like to hear from members if they have any idea why this should be.

To start the New Year's walking programme, on 2 January Fred Gendall took 30+ members on a walk around the numerous interesting and historical sites in Penzance. Lunch at The Dolphin followed the walk.

In February there was a Member's Day attended by 60+ members for two fascinating talks and a pasty lunch.

In March there was a lively curry night at Little India in Penzance. Thirteen of us attended, who were pleased to welcome some new members.

April brought another curry night at the popular Gurkha restaurant in Falmouth.

On Saturday 11 May, members were invited to the opening ceremony for the Bench in memory of our founder Winifred White and the 70th anniversary of the formation of WCFPS.

In early June, Kathy Fairey organised a resurrection of the summer river trip down the Fal. 70 members enjoyed the trip and the pasty supper.

8. Walk Secretary's Report - Clare and John Bennett

Long and short walks have continued over the winter despite the very wet weather, with very few cancelled, so thanks were extended to the leaders and walkers. The addition of monthly leisure walks has been a success, 2 to 3 miles focusing on gentle exercise. Members continue to receive information and updates on walks via email and facebook. Still trying to encourage new walk leaders and suggest the best way to start is by teaming up with an experienced leader. All very welcome to communicate with the committee for advice and support. Clare asked that reports and photos of walks should continue to be sent, as they are very popular

both by the walkers themselves, and those who were unable to participate. If members are unwilling, or unable to post on facebook themselves, they can send the report and/or photos to Clare and she will do it.

Clare has asked members to submit requests for walks either in areas they feel under represented, or walks they have done in the past and would like to repeat. She will compile a list before the next programme is put together.

Thorold Eddy thanked Clare for the reminder emails, which he finds very helpful. This was endorsed by the rest of the members present.

9. Rights of Way Officer's Report - John Rogers

Path Clearing

When clearing Penzance 72, Roskilly to Penolva, it was obvious it had not been cleared for many years. Following letters to Penzance Mayor and Clerk it became clear that they relied on CC. We attended a committee meeting and public Council meeting to raise our concerns. They are in discussion with CC and hope to have a policy by the end of July.

Green signs

We have erected 27 posts this year bringing the total to 111 and 6 signs bringing that total to 53 since December 2018, a total altogether of 164. Three in the last year at the request of Linda Holloway.

Planning

We objected (along with others) to a planning application at Carn Glaze Farm, Sancreed. Our grounds were that the depictions of the PRow's and access to the site were inaccurate. Also the scale of the proposed development would spoil the enjoyment of walkers. The planning application was refused.

We currently have an objection outstanding for a 'barn' conversion in Paul. We object because the site and its works already infringe on the footpath.

There is a recent objection to a proposal on Carrack Gladden, between Carbis Bay and Porth Kidney Sands, which threatens the SWCP.

Footpath Issues

Sennen 15. Its diversion order continues to be a low priority.

Marazion 12, the Cemetary to Trenow Farm. Its restoration has been put back to March 2025.

St Buryan, Lamorna, Paul bridleway 45 Crean Bottoms to Tressider. A gate erected across the route stopped access. Fiona Holdaway led several walks through there so she has provided evidence to the local residents who are raising a modification order.

River Hayle In the past year there has been work by Westcountry Rivers Trust, on behalf of CC, to protect the river-bank with brash at four locations but more work is needed. The erosion has stopped at Carbis Mill and plans are afoot to build a boardwalk to span the gap. However, the closure is extended until June 2025. The society continues to press for footpath protection at several other points along the river. Volunteer day has been put back to September. Members will be notified.

Action JJ.

10. DMMO Officer's Report - David Cooper

Using a power point presentation, David gave a report on the latest position re DMMO Applications and progress since the last AGM. Salient points are:

The cut-off date for addition of applications to the DMMO Register is January 1, 2031 CC continues to make slow progress in dealing with outstanding applications. A new Prioritisation Policy has been adopted by the Council that places greater importance on applications primarily based on User Evidence.

Some new paths have been added to the Definitive Map; details of these will be added to the WCFPS website to enable members and walk leaders to take advantage of them prior to them appearing on the OS Maps.

11. Revised Constitution - Richard Belton

Dick explained that much of the old constitution needed updating, giving additional clarity, and simplification of some clauses. The revised constitution was shown on the screen, with the relevant clauses/additions highlighted. He itemised each revision, explaining why it was necessary. These included:

- a) The committee section needed updating to remove redundant positions and to align with best practice as recommended by the Charity Commission.
- b) The Charity Commission template constitution recommends 3 essential officers - Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary.
- c) Their primary role is to ensure the society -
 - i) Meets its objectives
 - ii) Is run according to best practice
 - iii) All necessary controls are in place
 - iv) It complies with all the appropriate regulations

These roles are in section 6 “Executive Officers”

All other roles have been moved to Section 8 - Committee

Dick invited questions from the floor, but none was asked.

Resolution - It is resolved that this AGM approves the amendments to the Constitution as published in June 2024 and included with the Agenda.

All members were in favour. None against.

13. AOB

Colin Vickers was presented with the Red Welly award

John Rogers, who is retiring from the Committee after 20 years, was thanked by Dick for everything he has done for the WCFPS. He was presented with a card signed by the membership, and red ceramic boots. John thanked Dick and the members, adding that he was awarded the Red Welly just before Covid restrictions in 2019, until 2021, so held it for the longest period of time. He challenged the walk leaders to beat that record.

He was then offered the position of Honorary President, which he accepted.

Questions from the floor:

Susan Pester suggested that if long walks were held at a slower pace, more members might go on them. Many members agreed with that. It was suggested that “leisurely” might be added to the walk description, though it was pointed out that if it was too leisurely the walk wouldn’t end till late afternoon. Other suggestions were made, and Clare pointed out that walk leaders are entitled to design their own walk, though changes must be made clear on the programme.

Election of Executive Committee Members for 2024/2025

Existing Officers willing to continue in roles:

Executive Officers

Chairman - Richard Belton

Secretary - Shirley Wainwright

Treasurer - Kathy Fairey

Proposed by Denise Belton Seconded by Susan Pester

Vote carried unanimously

Committee Members with roles

Membership Secretary - Kathy Fairey

Social Secretary - Denise Belton

Walks Secretary - Clare Bennett

Definitive Map Modification Order (DMMO) Officer - David Cooper

Communications and Archive Officer - John Heath

Proposed by Mike Bateman Seconded by John Bennett

Vote carried unanimously

Committee Members without portfolio

Maggie Bashford

Annie Denning

Proposed by Mandy Eddy Seconded by Jill James

Vote carried unanimously

Jill James was then introduced to the members.

New Committee Member with role

Rights of Way Officer - Jill James

Proposed by Richard Belton Seconded by John Rogers

Vote carried unanimously

There being no further business the meeting ended at 12.40. Members were invited to join Maggie Bashford for a short walk to the beach to eat their picnic lunches.

Chair.....Date.....

