

HIGHWORTH & SWINDON WALKING CLUB

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON 24th JUNE 2025

Present: Andrew Snowden (AS, Chair), Marilyn Todd (MT, Sunday Walks Coordinator), Dave Hazell (DH, Treasurer), Don Webster (DW), Pat Kenyon (PK) Membership Secretary, Sue Aiken (SA), Wednesday Walks Coordinator).

Apologies: None.

1. Previous minutes

AS summarised the minutes from the previous meeting after welcoming all. Accepted as accurate.

2. Financial and membership secretaries reports

Financial

DH - the bank account balance was £1829.26, and cash was £78.77 and the London coach trip on 14th June broke even.

Membership

PK – current membership is 102, with five applications pending. There were some renewals for 2025-6 still outstanding but no responses have been received to her emails, so these persons will be deleted from the membership database.

There was some discussion about the need for club membership cards and the cost/benefit.

Cost of 2025-6 membership cards

Print 2025-6 membership cards Qty.150 £25.50

Clear, self-laminating pockets for cards Qty 200 £30.47 (plenty left over for next year)

Envelopes x 200 £9.65 (plenty left over for next year).

There was a related discussion about any discounts that could be printed on the club's membership cards, as Cotswold Outdoor no longer offer it, but Go Outdoors may.

Action: AS to write to Go Outdoors to seek clarification.

3. Walk Coordinator reports for July-September programmes

Wednesday programme

SA – there are currently three walks short in July, but August and September are full.

Sunday programme

MT – there is one space in Sept, but July and August are full.

It was agreed that coordinators would issue reminders to all leaders close to the time of programme publication. **Action: SA and MT**

Action: AS to encourage new leaders to come forward in the next club newsletter.

4. March 2012 Walks around Highworth booklets

DH had received approximately 100 copies of the booklet, following the closure of the Lighthouse bookshop in Highworth's High Street and asked what might be done with them. After discussion, it

was agreed that DH would offer them free to Highworth Library. DH would also enquire if the Visit Highworth shop in the High Street and the various charity shops in Highworth could use them.

Action: DH to enquire at Highworth Library, Visit Highworth and charity shops.

5. London coach trip 14th June 2025

AS reported that those who were on the trip were happy on the day.

MT said that some people felt the breaks on the long walks were too short.

The committee expressed its thanks to Mary Hewitt, Marilyn Todd, Pete Saunders and Jenny Stephens for their contributions to the organisation and success of the day.

6. First Aid incident

On the 18th June Wednesday walk, a member fell twice and was disorientated and overheated. Other walkers helped her to keep cool and hydrated. She was happy to be left in a nearby pub with two other walkers to fully recover (she declined the offer to call an ambulance). Her medications had been changed recently, and she did see her GP following the incident.

AS asked how the club could assist leaders in dealing with such incidents.

7. Peak District weekend

AS said it would be based in Leek and approximately 14 had expressed an interest to date.

Maggie Webster has offered to lead one of the shorter walks and AS will lead three.

Action: AS will send out an email with update on the walks, accommodation, etc.

8. First Aid update

AS advised that more kits had been purchased. PK suggested having a spot at the next AGM to brief leaders on this subject.

Action: AS to organise a First Aid briefing session soon, for those interested.

AS may also investigate a possible three part online course (produced by UK Athletics) – costs and availability.

9. Club website

AS noted that some walk leaders were not keen on the format of present website walk proposal form. Some want committee members photos on the website, but the general view of the meeting was not in favour of this, as no obvious benefit was apparent.

10. Walk leader shortage and “buddying”

It was reported that a few new walk leaders have come forward.

Action: AS to put an article in the next club newsletter.

11. Public rights of way

DW had spoken to a Highworth Town Councillor on this issue (regarding local RoW problems) who has undertaken to speak with Swindon Borough Council's rights of way officer.

DW has also emailed details of the relevant gov.uk website information pages on RoWs to H&SWC committee members (in particular, concerning the issue with the path opposite the entrance to Wrag Barn golf course, where the cut-off date for registering it is 31-01-2031).

DW noted that landowners had a legal duty to keep RoWs usable (including stiles and gates and not ploughing up the route of paths. He will keep pressing the relevant councillors and RoW officers on the "Wrag Barn" and Ogborne St George (crumbling stile) path issues. **Action: DW**

12. AOB

AS mentioned that some walkers did not understand What3Words location references, and he wondered who they might ask for guidance. **Action: AS to mention this in next club newsletter.**

AS closed the meeting at 2125.