

HIGHWORTH & SWINDON WALKING CLUB
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING, HELD ON 16th SEPTEMBER 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.

AS has not yet contacted Go Outdoors about club discount; the Peak District weekend away is going ahead; the walk proposal form has been updated.

Minutes accepted as accurate.

2. Financial and membership secretaries reports

Financial

DH - the bank account balance was £1829.26, and cash was £78.77 (both unchanged since the last meeting).

3. Membership secretary's report

PK – current membership is 103. There is one new member. Five applications are pending, but none have yet been on trial walks. PK has emailed these five but has yet to receive any replies, so they will be deleted from the membership database if nothing is heard within a reasonable time period.

4. Walk Coordinator reports for October-December programmes

Wednesday programme

SA – the next programme currently has four vacant slots (all in December). It has been sent to Pete Saunders for emailing out to the membership.

Sunday programme

MT – the next programme is not yet full, with six slots to fill. She has three new walk leaders.

5. Metrobank – impending monthly £3 account charge

Given the small monthly charge, compared to what our previous bank (Lloyds) was proposing (£4.25/month plus other charges for certain individual transactions), it was agreed that the club would remain with Metrobank.

6. Walks around Highworth booklets (March 2012 revision)

DH had given (free) copies to Highworth Library and two Highworth charity shops (40 copies in total).

SA suggested offering some to the Swindon Central Library. PK asked for some copies to offer elsewhere. **Action: DH**

7. Treasurer and secretary roles

DH advised the committee that he is to step down as club Treasurer (and minutes secretary) with effect from the February 2026 AGM. AS thanked DH for his efforts (variously as Wednesday walks coordinator/secretary/treasurer since March 2018) on behalf of the committee and club.

AS proposed splitting the treasurer and secretary roles, as it would then be easier to attract volunteers.

Action: DH to produce a concise summary of the Treasurer's duties.

Action: committee members to invite expressions of interest during walks, etc.

Action: AS to invite volunteers for the two roles in the next club newsletter.

8. Footpaths update

DW – not much to report, as no responses (on the poor state of footpaths) from the Ogborne St George Parish Council clerk. Vijay Manro (SBC councillor) has advised DW that the issue of formally adopting as a public right of way from opposite the entrance to Wrag Barn Golf Club (on the B4000), to where it intersects with an existing footpath, has been approved. However, there is one outstanding issue and the gates leading to the path are still chained and padlocked.

9. Ramblers footpath maintenance working parties

DW – North Wilts Ramblers have periodic footpath maintenance/repair work parties and suggested that our club might offer them assistance.

Action: AS will mention this in the next club newsletter.

Action: DW to liaise with the Ramblers contact.

10. First Aid training

AS has identified three possible providers:

a) Wiltshire Search & Rescue – fundamentals and specialised courses dealing with remote/outdoor locations - £90/person (expensive).

b) British Athletics - £15/person for an online course (but based upon there being easy access for ambulance assistance).

c) A qualified First Aid Trainer – a 4 hour course with an outdoor emphasis - £250 to set up and £7/person. We provide the venue (or he will for £50).

The pros and cons of each offer were discussed. It was agreed to gauge the number likely to attend, before deciding which offer to opt for.

Action: AS to invite expressions of interest in attending a course.

11. Christmas/New Year events

SA kindly offered to organise the Wednesday walks Christmas lunch and secure a short walk beforehand and she asked for someone to assist her. Date to be advised, after a suitable venue and walk leader can be identified. Most venues have yet to publish their Christmas food offers.

The problems encountered during last year's lunch were discussed and ways of avoiding any future issues were noted.

Action: SA to progress identifying a venue and walk leader.

Action: AS to ask for a volunteer to assist SA in the next club newsletter

AS said that the Sunday walks' lunch will be held on 11th January 2026.

He will ask for a Sunday lunch organiser in the next club newsletter. **Action: AS**

12. AOB

AS – Visit Highworth had emailed him, as they are keen to promote local groups, clubs and societies in and around Highworth. They want to publicise them on their website.

Julia Rose is the contact for the Visit Highworth visitor centre, located in the High Street, Highworth.

Action: DW to make contact (and offer the March 2012 Highworth Walks booklets - free).

DW – on a recent walk, there was lightning in the vicinity and most of the walkers headed for shelter under trees, which is contrary to accepted wisdom/advice. He did mention this to those under the trees, but his advice was not heeded.

Action: AS to mention the official Ramblers' advice in the next club newsletter.

AS closed the meeting at 2120.