

HIGHWORTH & SWINDON WALKING CLUB
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Held on Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.30 pm
in Swindon Conservative Club, Bath Road, Swindon

Andrew Snowden (AS) took the chair. Other committee members present were Dave Hazell (DH), Sue Aiken (SA), Pat Kenyon (PK) and Don Webster (DW).
The total number in attendance (including the Committee) was approximately twenty-eight.

1	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies
	<p>AS welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda.</p> <p>He welcomed Peter Gallagher from the Wiltshire Ramblers Group, who gave a presentation on the charity’s status, organisation and work. A brief Q & A session followed and AS thanked Peter on behalf of the club.</p> <p>Copies of the Agenda, Chairman’s Report, Treasurer’s report and the Minutes of the 2025 AGM were distributed to the membership by email, in advance of the AGM.</p> <p>Apologies for absence received from: Marilyn Todd, Mary Hewitt, Kevin Fisher, Sheila Fletcher, Richard Pearce, Pete Saunders and Ros Shand.</p>
2	Minutes of the February 2025 AGM and Matters Arising
	<p>AS summarised the 2025 AGM minutes. There were no questions and the meeting accepted the minutes as an accurate record, with no abstentions or objections.</p>
3	Chairman’s Report
	<p>AS summarised the contents of his report document, which had been distributed in advance of the meeting.</p> <p>There were no questions on the report and AS asked if the meeting accepted his report, which was approved unopposed.</p>

4	Treasurer’s Report
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	<p>DH mentioned this was his last report as Treasurer, as he was stepping down from the role. The new Treasurer will need to be added to the club's Metrobank account as an authorised signatory (with the same signing rules and the primary recipient of Metrobank communications) and DH removed. He then briefly went through the contents of his one-page summary of the Club's 2024 accounts, which had been distributed in advance of the meeting, together with the accounts balance sheet.</p> <p>He thanked the examiner of the club's accounts, Gerry Reilly and mentioned that Gerry was willing to carry on in the role with the new Treasurer.</p> <p>DH mentioned the move of the club's bank account from Lloyds to Metrobank, following Lloyds introduction of a monthly account charge of £4.25. The transfer went smoothly and was completed on 21st January 2025. However, Metrobank introduced a monthly charge of £3 in December 2025, payable in the following month. Given this is lower than the Lloyds charge and the work involved in changing banks, the committee had decided to remain with Metrobank.</p> <p>Dave Hazell proposed that Gerry Reilly be the examiner of the club's 2026 accounts. This was approved unopposed.</p> <p>AS requested the 2025 accounts be approved, which they were, unopposed.</p>
5	Proposed subscription for 2026-27
	<p>DH felt the club's bank balance was healthy and that no change in the subscription rate was required. The meeting approved this, unopposed.</p>
6	Election of the Committee for 2026
	<p>AS reported that MT, SA, PK and DW had all agreed to continue in their present roles. AS invited nominations, as follows:</p> <p>Chair Sue Aiken proposed Andrew Snowden Seconded by Pat Kenyon Approved unopposed</p> <p>Sunday walks coordinator (Marilyn Todd was unwell so not present, but had agreed to continue in the role if elected) Sue Aiken proposed Marilyn Todd Seconded by Maggie Webster</p>

	<p>Approved unopposed</p> <p>Wednesday walks coordinator Sue Aiken was willing to continue in the role. Dave Hazell proposed Sue Aiken Seconded by Pat Kenyon Approved unopposed</p> <p>Treasurer AS invited volunteers from the meeting and Zoe Brown was willing to take on the role. Pat Kenyon proposed Zoe Brown Seconded by Dave Hazell Approved unopposed</p> <p>Minutes Secretary AS invited volunteers from the meeting and Annie Willett was willing to take on the role. Sue Aiken proposed Annie Willetts Seconded by Dave Hazell Approved unopposed</p> <p>Membership Secretary Sue Aiken proposed Pat Kenyon Seconded by Lucy Newport Approved unopposed</p> <p>Committee member without a specific role Don Webster indicated he was willing to continue in the role for one more year. Pat Kenyon proposed Don Webster Seconded by Sue Aiken Approved unopposed.</p>
7	Ramblers new Terms & Conditions for affiliated clubs
	<p>AS had sent a briefing document to the membership in advance of the meeting, setting out the requirement of The Ramblers new Terms and Conditions for affiliated clubs (of which H&SWC is one, as it allows the club to benefit from a significantly lower cost for Public Liability Insurance). He went through the main points of the new Ramblers Ts&Cs, after which he invited questions. A discussion ensued about the new requirements and how the club could comply, although in many respects the club already does. Points raised included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having a checklist for all walkers to consider when preparing for a walk.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should the club have a weather warning system (e.g. using Wednesday and Sunday WhatsApp groups), to publicise a cancelled walk when a Met Office red or amber weather warning has been issued . • Leaders may also find a checklist useful, but what can leaders do if some walkers arrive ill-prepared? • Should it be left to individual members to arrive for walks sensibly prepared and equipped? • Should there be a rule that a walker who becomes unwell and returns to the start point must be accompanied by another. • Should there be a short video on the club’s website with advice on what to bring/wear on club walks? <p>AS concluded that the committee will have to tighten up guidance for walkers and leaders, making it available on the club’s website, but they must have input from the membership to assist in doing this. In conclusion, AS thanked all for their contributions and the committee will consider the way forward.</p>
8	Club trips and events in 2026
	<p>AS advised that nothing had yet been planned for events in 2026. He noted the 2025 trip to London was well received , but there was a last-minute scramble to fill the coach up. He asked for the membership to support club organised trips when they are first advertised, booking places early. Ideas for trips from members would be very welcome.</p> <p>AS mentioned that he may be organising a weekend away for Sept/Oct 2026.</p>
8	Open Forum
	<p>DW noted that membership had fallen recently and that it might be due to the lack of five mile walks. Robin Clegg agreed with DW and felt this might be due to the age profile of the membership increasing. SA advised that she has led short walks in recent programmes.</p> <p>Robin Clegg raised the problem when some walkers go far ahead of the leader and asked the committee to send out a message about this. PK emphasised the need to stay in the group, especially when livestock is in the area.</p>
9	Any Other Business
	<p>There was no other business.</p>

	AS closed the meeting at 21:33
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