

Walkabout Flintshire.

Minutes of an Open Meeting; 7.00 pm 11th March 2016.
St. Mary's Church Hall, King Street, Mold

Present:

The meeting was attended by 26 members; there were 22 apologies.

1. Introductions.

The Chairman (Dave Mackie) opened the meeting by introducing himself and the members of the committee. He explained the background to the setting up of the "new" group and his involvement in supporting that process.

2. Finance.

The Treasurer (Sandy Macleod) presented the financial position which was;

Cheque account:	£7587.33p
Savings account:	£4491.89p
Petty cash:	£32.80p

There had been a donation of £132.00p from the Mold walkers and we had liabilities of £300 for the walks programme and £24 for the hire of this evening's venue.

There were a number of questions from the floor;

- a. **Where did the money come from?** £4500 inherited from Friends of Walkabout Flintshire and £7500 from Flintshire County Council as a one-off payment
- b. **What do we need the money for?** Insurance cover for when Let's Walk Cymru cover runs out in 2017. Also we needed to cover training costs (especially) for the Nordic walking, Nordic poles, hi-vis tabards and general running costs of the group e.g. postage.

3. Proposed constitution.

Neville Howell gave a brief overview of our new constitution which had previously been distributed to all walk leaders. He highlighted the main points of the constitution and how we would use this to go for charitable status.

Charitable status would enable us to more readily apply for grants, protect the trustees and also allow beneficiaries to claim gift aid. The creation of the proposed constitution had been a long detailed process aided by John Gray of FLVC.

It was also pointed out that committee members would serve for 12 months but could be re-elected at the AGM. We also had powers to co-opt additional members on an ad hoc basis when the need arose.

The meeting was asked to approve the constitution and this was carried unanimously.

4. Frequency of future meetings.

It was agreed that future meetings would be held quarterly and that the venues, days and times would be varied to ensure no one walking group would be disadvantaged.

The next meeting would be in Mold on a Tuesday evening: date to be confirmed.

5. Open forum.

A number of issues were raised by the members;

- a. **Duty of care;** what were the limits on this especially where people may be injured and a leader may need to contact someone's "next of kin"? It was generally agreed that this information was the responsibility of the walker themselves although if the leader preferred to hold it, that was acceptable as well. (Boots e.g. have a small card that walkers could obtain to list their health and contact details). In general, if in doubt dial 999.
- b. **Reference to subscription in the constitution;** it was explained that this was a generic document but we had no plans to introduce charges as our aim is to have free led walks only.
- c. **What was the cover under the insurance policy?** This is public liability cover for the walk leaders only. In any claim, leaders would have to prove that they had risk assessed the walk, briefed the walkers on any issues and checked their suitability for the level of walk.
It was agreed that the secretary confirm this with Let's Walk Cymru who pay for our insurance.
- d. **Cover for walk leaders;** it was noted that some walks could not be covered and walkers were "leading" themselves. It was suggested that a list of leaders who were prepared to cover other walks be set up and distributed and this could be used to find a free leader for that walk. ***The secretary agreed to canvas the leaders and create such a list.***
- e. **Reserves policy;** it was suggested that we have a reserves fiscal policy so that leaders/groups could apply for grants/funding etc. ***The treasurer agreed to do this.***
- f. **Sponsorship of clothing;** it was agreed that the committee could approve sponsorship of Walkabout branded clothing (e.g. hi-vis tabards, hats tee shirts) if suitable sponsorship were to be available.
- g. **Promoting Walkabout;** it was suggested that we have posters in surgeries to promote walking in the surgery's area. ***The secretary was asked to take this on.***
- h. **Were dogs allowed on walks;** they could be allowed if well behaved and if the owner took full responsibility. However, the walk leader had some discretion where walks would encounter farm animals.
- i. Could under 16's be allowed on walks; yes if with a responsible adult.
- j. **What is the Walkabout website address;** it is www.walkaboutflintshire.com

6. The chairman closed the meeting at 8.15pm and thanked all present for their contribution to the debates.

Minutes taken by Peter Kime, Secretary to Walkabout Flintshire Committee.