

Walkabout Flintshire

Minutes of an Open Meeting 2.00 pm 24th November 2017.

Rhydymwyn Nature Reserve.

1. Present.

There were 14 people at the meeting and 5 apologies.

2. Minutes of 29th August 2017.

The minutes were accepted as a true record with the following small amendments;

- a. Item 3 should read Dave Waller rather than Neville
- b. The correct name for the Friends of Dee Valley should read Friends of the Clwydian Range and Dee Valley.

3. Finance Report.

The treasurer reported that all the accounts had been consolidated and the current balance was £10958.62p. He explained that the secretary's expenses consisted of the costs of stationery, postage stamps and printer paper. He also highlighted the kind gift of £400 from the widow of Howard Green.

4. WaF Promotion.

It was felt that if we were to promote Walkabout we must focus on the most effective method. To date the following ideas had been progressed.

- **Surgeries:** Gill Harrison reported that she had visited all 3 clusters which were attended by all GPs, practice managers and practice nurses. An electronic copy of our programme had been sent to their co-ordinator who had arranged for it to be broadcast on surgery waiting room TV screens.

She had also been to a conference to promote a new scheme known as Social Proscribing and that they were now very much aware of Walkabout Flintshire and what we could offer.

Gill also reported that she would be going along to meet Flintshire physiotherapists in Deeside on 6th December.

After some debate, it was agreed to revisit this initiative in 12 months time.

- **Library service:** Peter said that he had visited Mold library and had only handed out two programmes (both to librarians!). He thought that his location within the library had not been a good choice and that next time, he would choose a busier position. **Action closed to business as usual.**
- **Mold Food and Drink Festival:** Walkabout had been represented at the fair with mixed results. Some felt that it had been a good exercise whilst others did not. However, it was agreed to have a stall at the event in 2018. **Action: secretary to apply to the organisers.**

Neville suggested that we might like to try other events in the county and/or have joint promotions with the Cittislow group; **agreed.**

5. The future of Let's Walk Cymru (LWC)

The secretary reported that he had been to a meeting on the 6th September in Llandrindod Wells and had found it interesting. It had been attended by all walking groups across Wales but Flintshire County Council was not there. He highlighted some of the points from the meeting;

- a. Funding for LWC would stop in October and be replaced by a new scheme known as “Well Being Fund”. Groups could apply to this for funding but details were sketchy at present.
- b. We could affiliate to Ramblers Cymru for a fee of £95 pa but (again) details of terms and conditions were not fully explained. NB; we would be covered for 3rd party insurance if we joined as affiliates.
- c. The secretary had been invited to give a short presentation on Walkabout.
- d. The Hawarden community walking scheme was held up as a good scheme.
- e. Promises were made to update their database and website to reflect that Walkabout was no longer part of Troedio Clwyd Walks.
- f. A further meeting had been arranged for the 6th of December to report back on progress.

The secretary confirmed that he had written to the Welsh Government and local AMs but the reply merely referred us back to the new proposed Well Being Bond. (Another group from south Wales had also done this and received an identical reply.)

6. Stan Jones highlighted the problems of **parking at Talacre** now that charges had been imposed by FCC. The Secretary to write to the Chief Executive of FCC to ask about extending the first rate of parking from 2 to 3 hours. Secretary had written and received a polite “sorry can’t help” response. **Chair to pursue with FCC; ongoing. The chairman reported that he had pursued this at county level but no concessions had been granted. It was agreed to await the outcome of a letter that Neville had written to Carolyn Thomas.**
7. Other matters arising

Walk Leader Training.

- Dave Waller explained the complexities of finding a common date for all those wanting training. He suggested that the group be split up and 2 or more sessions organised. **This was agreed.**
 - Peter said that the website contract was up for renewal in December and asked if Walkabout wanted to continue with it. **This was agreed.** He further said that he would be applying for funding from the Community Chest for money to pay the renewal fee. **The secretary reported that the application had been turned down because it was felt that this expenditure was a normal running cost. Action closed.**
 - It was also agreed that the Chairman hold the access and password for the email and website accounts, in case of emergencies. Secretary to action. **Chair now had the documentation. Action closed.**
8. Open session/AOB.

It was noted that Flintshire County Council Leisure Services were advertising training for Nordic walk leaders. Chair agreed to follow this up and find out how it would be funded.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting.

**Date of next Open Meeting would be 19th February 2018 at 2.00 pm in room 30 (VC room)
Rhydymwyn Nature Reserve.**

(Sec’s note: trustees meeting would follow on from that meeting, in the same room)