

Minutes of Committee Meeting, 13th January 2025

The Red Gate Inn, Mansfield

Present:

John Alvey, Stephen Bramley, Julie Casey, Pete Dring, Alex Ellis, Denise Garley, Martyn Gill, Sharron Hartshorn, Vanessa McGrath, Brian Tuffnell, Keith Walker, Mary Whetstone.

Apologies:

Julie Lawson, Yvonne Rek, Joy Walker.

Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting on 7th October 2024 we approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting. Proposed by Martyn Gill, seconded by Alex Ellis.

Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the last meeting.

Officer Reports

Secretary

The highlight of our social events must be the BIG Christmas party in December. With over 100 attending the party was a huge success helped by some good organisation, very good live performers who had the dance floor full and a very generous benefactor.

October saw us travel to Ilfracombe for one of coach holidays. Some great coastal walks if a little wet at times. Our AGM in November was very well attended with over forty members attending. It seems that offering walks before the meeting and being on our usual walking day helped swell the numbers. We were able to elect new members to our committee including a new Chair, Social Secretary and Footpath Secretaries (in a job share role). I'm sure Sue's influence over the years has made our group stronger and encouraged us all to keep everything running. We need to start thinking about this year's AGM and where to hold it.

We had a large group attend the Palace Theatre in Mansfield for a showing of Our House play based on the music of Madness. Another great social event.

We have a full walks programme to the end of April and more new walk leaders taking up training. I look forward to them being able to lead a walk shortly with one being this coming Sunday.

We have had several enquiries lately about joining our group.

Brian Tuffnell

Secretary

Finance

UNITY TRUST

Account has a balance of £350.23.

The submitted Budget was accepted. The new quarterly funding amount is £143.75. The next payment is due in late January.

We have received a commission payment of £20 from Ramblers Worldwide Travel.

Yvonne Rek is now set up as a user on the Unity Trust account. This means she can now check balances and authorise payments if Brian or I are unable to do so.

NATWEST SOCIAL ACCOUNT

The balance on this Account as of this morning was £5146.60.

Please refer to the attached Summary of Activities.

Current and Recent Activities:

Our House Theatre & Meal, Eagles Concert and Sound Bath have been fully paid for and balance to zero.

Pantomime visit and Meal are fully paid for.

Sherwood Observatory, Elan Valley and Harlem Globetrotters are in progress. They are being paid for shortly

The decision to change the date of the Criccieth Holiday means that we lost the £150 deposit on the original booking.

Christmas Party 2024 has a credit balance of £535. We still have a balance of £475 on the anonymous donation from December 2023.

I am currently awaiting instruction from the Committee as to how to deal with these amounts.

Martyn Gill (Treasurer)

Footpaths

No report received.

Litter Pickers

Litter pick November 8

Bags and a Mattress.

November Denise organised a trip to Veolia Recycling for 14 litter pickers. Interesting and Informative as to where or litter goes.

We managed to pull one more litter pick in November with 6 bags.

Litter pickers lunch at The Rushley on 13th December.

First litter pick of 2025 Jubilee Way ground frozen but managed 6 bags, cardboard, quilt.

Alex

Membership

7 new

1 rejoined

1 affiliated

10 leavers (2 lapsed 8 resigned)

164 members total

2 less total from last meeting.

Publicity

Sharron reported that she has only submitted one article recently although our litter pick activities are always sent for publication in local newspapers.

Sharron reminded people about sharing our Facebook posts so that we can reach a wider audience which could lead to new members.

It was suggested that we write an article for the CHAD highlighting some of our members and our activities.

Brian told the meeting about the Secret Lives article that is published on the Area website and suggested the article could follow a similar format and that we could even publish it on our website.

Other publications were mentioned such as the free News Journal.

Social Events

Started around 2nd December – handover from Julie Lawson

Sound bath – 17th December 2025

No's 6 cost £20 – went well enjoyed by all – may do another

Observatory – 18th January 2025

No's 39 cost £10.50 Show/talk/refreshments/tour of Exhibition Centre – If interested I will look into smaller numbers to do a night sky with the telescope

Panto – 31st January Mansfield Palace Theatre

Cost £12 No's 24

Cabaret London Theatre– 19th March 2025

No's 17 with Blue Pigeon cost £119.00

Elan – 27th March – 30th March 2025 3 nights

No's 15 cost £360

Transport? Minibus options?

Harlem Globetrotters 17th April 2025

No's 11 Motorpoint Arena cost £TBA

Criccieth 22nd – 26th October 2025

Cost £360.00 No's 34 – need to sort sharing and additional single rooms? Brian spoke to Alfa.

Ramblers in the Pink – I've created a just giving page for the Midnight Walk

Other events pipeline to look at / Wizard of Oz March– Theatre/VE Day May / Ogston Hall/ Gliding Day/
I'll be looking for other events too.

Vanessa McGrath.

Social Secretary Mobile

Vanessa has an iPhone, and the message settings do not allow for group messages in the same way as Android phones do in that if anyone replies to the message it goes to everyone in the group similar to WhatsApp.

Vanessa was given an old Android phone by Julie Lawson and Vanessa has bought a SIM with Lebara that should give her unlimited texts at a cost of £5 per month. Brian asked whether we should pay for this from our Social Account as it is a service we provide to our members for notifications regarding social events. Denise Garley proposed that we should pay for the phone contract from our Social Account. This was seconded by Julie Casey and was passed unanimously by the committee.

Vanessa reported that she was having some issues with the service as Lebara were blocking her for excessive use. This is despite the contract being sold with unlimited texts. Vanessa will persevere for a while but may have to change suppliers if she is unable to resolve the issues.

A.O.B

Brian asked the meeting for approval to buy 'The Big Blue Book' (Rights of Way A Guide To Law And Practice) as this is needed for them to ensure that we do not lose any footpaths or other rights of way. The book costs £30.

Brian proposed purchasing the book and was seconded by Alex Ellis. This was approved by the committee. The cost will be met from our Unity Trust account.

Next Meeting dates

It was agreed to fix the meeting dates for the coming year.

7th April 2024, 7th July 2024, 6th October 2024, 12th January 2025

All to be held at The Red Gate, Mansfield.

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Brian Tuffnell

Group Secretary, Mansfield & Sherwood Group

E&OE