

The Camping and Caravanning Club

Walking and Cycling Section

Minutes of the Virtual Meeting of the Section Council held on 6th October 2021

The Meeting commenced at 10.00 am

Present:

Francine Nutt (Chairman), Christine Mason (Secretary), Tim Clarke (Treasurer), John Gerner (PRO and Web Co-ordinator), Barry Cowlard (Elected Member – Deputy Officer to National Council Representative), Deb Masters (Wessex Area Representative), Steve Harris (C&CC Representative), Sandra Wain (Elected Member - Minute Taker), Trev Masters (Elected Member) and Graham Mason (Elected Member)

Joining the Meeting later:

Jean Morton (Peakland Area Representative)

Les Morton (Membership Secretary/Officer to National Council – Elected Member),

John Allen (Elected Member)

1. Chairman's Welcome

Francine Nutt welcome everyone and thanked them for attending also to Christine Mason for hosting.

2. Apologies for absence

John Bradley (Deputy Area Representative to Section)

Andrew Wood (President/Area Representative to Section)

3. Minutes of last Meeting – 6th January 2021 on Zoom

Web Co-ordinator was added to John Gerner's roles.

These were then accepted as correct.

Proposed: Barry Cowlard; Seconded Tim Clarke

Agreed unanimously. (Trev Masters to sign as he chaired the Meeting)

4. Matters Arising from the Minutes

There were none.

5. Correspondence

Report previously circulated.

The Secretary highlighted the communications between Fiona Roberts and herself re the Section AGM which is held on the Saturday preceding the May Day Bank Holiday during the Festival of Walking and Cycling long weekend. Section and Regions' AGMs should be held in May or June, however next year the date will be 30th April. The Secretary had requested permission for this to be held on 30th April and this was granted. However, a subsequent email had queried this date and the Secretary referred to the email giving permission. This generated an apology and the AGM can go ahead on this specified date. If this occurs again, then permission will have to be sought.

Steve Harris explained that the May and June requirement was so that it fits into a pattern whereby minor areas can report to major areas in a given time, also a representative from the Club can attend the meeting.

6. Financial Report and Disbursement to Area

Report previously circulated.

Membership fees are still coming in and as there are very few expenses because of no face-to-face meetings, we have a healthy balance.

A discussion about disbursement noted that the balance this year greatly exceeded that of previous years and it was agreed that in order to distribute money fairly, £500 be given to each Area to spend on specific items. Northern and Wessex have purchased signs and Peakland require another event shelter. This was preferred to having the disbursement sitting in a bank account. Wessex and Peakland have given some nights free camping to stewards. Peakland is the only area to impose a levy this year. Northern Area report suggests that they may struggle to form a committee next year which will leave two Areas for disbursement.

Proposed by Christine Mason and seconded by Sandra Wain that £500 disbursement be given to each Area this year. Agreed unanimously

It was proposed that the annual membership fee be reduced to £5 but we have to monitor what impact this would make if we are heading for a period of inflation. As only a small percentage of the Section is active, this could encourage the wider membership to come to Meets.

Barry Cowlard proposed a decrease in membership fee to £5, as there was no seconder this was not carried.

The Chairman thanked the Treasurer for his report.

Proposed John Gerner and seconded Barry Cowlard that the report be accepted.

Agreed unanimously.

7. PRO/Web Co-ordinator Reports

Report previously circulated. Additional information since then – John Gerner has sent a report to the Club magazine and it should be in the December edition. He requested reports from other Areas, especially photographs from winter walks. It is hoped that Wessex's Committee Meeting will agree to a Facebook page in December.

Francine Nutt has completed her 2021 challenge.

8. Membership Report

Previously circulated.

Numbers have gone down slightly from the earlier peak. There have been some additions recently.

9. National Council Report

Report previously circulated.

It was emphasised that the increase to 4 meetings a year was to bring Sections in line with Regions.

The Chairman thanked Les for a good report.

10. Northern Report

Report previously circulated.

This is a concerning report. Taking over their area would be geographically unrealistic for Wessex and although Peakland would like more Meets further north, it was difficult for them to run both areas as it would be too large. There were also areas we are not covering and possibly a new Area could be looked at with support from Section. There will be an EGM if Northern cannot form a committee, however they have meets and stewards for 2022 and this could be an opportunity to talk to attendees and encourage them to volunteer. The Meets this year varied from 10 to 24 campers. The Section will be in a better position to plan ahead when Northern have had their AGM.

11. Peakland Report

Report previously circulated.

Meets have been very well attended especially when restrictions were lifted and they were able to renew the social side such as after walk and evening get togethers. There are not many organised cycle rides and it was suggested that Facebook sites could be utilized to inform the requirement for organised cycle rides and have an extra tick box on the booking form each meet to inform stewards how many people will be bringing bikes to a meet.

12. Wessex Report

Report previously circulated.

There have been good organised cycle rides on some Meets. Deb Masters took the opportunity to thank the Out and About Team at Coventry who have been very helpful to Wessex this year.

13. Section Constitution

a) John Gerner asked for it to be noted that the increase in the number of meetings per year was not put to us and felt the difficulty of recruiting committee members was not appreciated and the extra meeting did not help. Steve Harris reiterated that this was brought in line with the Regions and it was a Section who had recommended this after 18 months of discussion. Two of the meetings can be virtual. This was duly passed by National Council, however as the Section doesn't receive Admin Minutes it was disappointing to hear of this decision without any direct consultation.

b) The timing of the Section AGM - It was emphasised that the Meet is held on the May Day Bank Holiday weekend to facilitate access for people to attend it as there is the Monday is an extra day's holiday. This means that some years the AGM meeting will fall at the end of April but this should not be a problem and Steve Harris will make this clear at the Club's next Admin meeting. The Section Constitution does state AGM to be held in April, May or June, although the Club constitution says May or June.

15. Members who have reached the end of their term in office

There are 3 members for re-election and if they wish to stand again, they will need to fill in forms before February along with a proposer.

Barry Cowlard advised that he didn't wish to stand again as a member/Vice Chairman/Deputy Advisor to National Council (he has already served the section for many years)

John Allen and Christine Mason are prepared to stand again for another 3 years.

It is possible to co-opt members after the AGM for one year, they can then stand for election the following year.

16. Appointment of Treasurer and Auditor

Tim Clarke is prepared to stand again as Treasurer for 2022 and after that he will not seek re-election.

Proposed Barry Cowlard, seconded John Gerner

Agreed unanimously.

Auditors - David Lewis does not wish to stand again after the AGM so that leaves the one auditor – Yvonne Plevy.

17. Any Other Business

AGM and FoW&C 2023 – John Gerner reported that Wessex are hoping to book Church Farm at Sixpenny Handley but bookings are not open until January 2022. However, there is a back up if we cannot be accommodated.

Les Morton said that the Peakland Winter Walks are already attracting large numbers.

Toni Busutill-Reynaud and John Gerner would like to have permission to pass on Facebook contributions for inclusion in Activity magazine.

Francine Nutt would like prospective committee members to know what is expected of them in any role that they may wish take on. A role proforma with bullet points listing particulars of each role which could be updated yearly as a live document would be helpful to anyone considering coming into a post and she asked that Committee members consider this over the next few months. This suggestion to be put on as an agenda item for the next meeting.

18. Date of Next Meeting

It was decided to have one later in January than in the past, the yearly accounts should be prepared by then.

Wednesday 19th January 2022 at 10.00 am via Zoom

The dates for the 4 meetings after the AGM will be discussed at this meeting.

The Meeting closed at 11.40am.

Signed.....
Chairman

Signed.....
Secretary