**Minuets of the fifteenth Bradford Senior Wayfarers AGM, held on 15th October 2021**

**Location:** **Shipley Library 2 Wellcroft, Shipley. BD18 3QH**

1. Welcome and opening remarks by the Acting Chair Verner Wheelock -

* Apologies have been received from David Webster and Dave Hughes
* Thanks were given to everyone who has contributed to keeping the club going over the last 20 months, during the difficult times of the pandemic.
* Thanks were expressed to Roger Pollard retiring chair, secretary and webmaster for keeping the club afloat for several years prior to March 2019.
* *36 members attended the AGM.*

1. In memorial.. members were asked to remember the following members who have passed away since our last AGM.

* Marie Airey
* Marjorie Brickley
* Phillip Robinson
* Shirley Keighley
* Jack Pitt
* Derek Wardman
* Marjorie Fieldhouse

1. Minutes of the previous AGM (19th March 2019) and Matters arising

None, **minutes were accepted and agreed.**

1. Election of officers, **the following** **were duly elected.**

**Chair:** Verner Wheelock. Proposed by John Bentley, seconded by Teresa Hall.

**Secretary:** Pat Meadows. Proposed by Ian Cartwright, seconded Albert Kilburn.

**Treasurer**: David Webster. Proposed by Dave Hughes, seconded by Verner Wheelock

**Webmaster:** Richard Walker. Proposed by Rodney Seed, seconded by Pat Meadows.

**Also agreed**: Barry Parker to continue as financial auditor… proposed by David Webster, seconded Pat Meadows.

1. **Officers Reports:**
   1. ***Chair***. Verner Wheelock outlined the following:

* Assessment of our current position (Current membership 136 down from approx. 300 pre pandemic))
* Developments over the past 2 years.
* Current challenges ; recruitment ,succession planning for leadership team , walk leadership.
* Some ideas on how we can move forward.
  1. ***Treasurer including finance report and agreement of accounts*** ... Rod Seed on behalf of David Webster

**Accounts for 2019, 2020 and 2021 to Sept, were accepted and agreed.**

* 1. **Website development, update** …. Richard Walker.

Richard gave an overview of where the development of the web site is and an overview of MeetUp and Facebook both being used as a recruitment / marketing tool. (Please see slides from the AGM for further detail – details at end of this doc)

Richard requested that members who walk with the Thursday 8 to 10 group join “Mid-Week Wayfarers” on Meetup. This would facilitate testing of the application and receive feedback on its usefulness in promoting their walks programme

1. **Group leaders reports :**
   1. ***Monday- RS/IR*** - Currently 22 members, average 11 walking each week. Continued all through covid restrictions with the exception of the full lockdown. All members offer to lead walks.
   2. ***Tuesday Central*** - **DW**– The Group currently has 21 members, with numbers attending weekly walks, fluctuating between 4 and 15. Many people are taking advantage of short breaks away, and this is to a certain extent, having an effect on attendance. Volunteers to lead walks are not numerous, but we have not had to cancel a walk since group walks recommenced following the pandemic. My thanks to all who volunteer.
   3. ***Tuesday Baildon*- TH/GH** -18 members down from 22 pre pandemic. Main reason for not returning is health reasons, and change of personal circumstances. Having some difficulty in recruiting walk leaders. Proposed a change of start time to 11am this is to allow walks to end before peak traffic times. This will be confirmed with Group members and on web site.
   4. ***Wednesday- JB/JB***– 43 members, averaging 20 on walks. The new risk assessments have been working well. Have been doing more circular walks to allow for car use due to public transport restrictions / pandemic. Christmas lunch arranged 22nd Dec.
   5. ***Thursday 5 milers*** - **HS**– struggled to re start due to lack of a leader, HS kindly volunteered to take this on. Currently 6 members.
   6. ***Thursday 8 milers* - DH**–– Currently 26 members. Averaging 15 per walk. Re starting following covid was slow, but walks are now planned until the new year. David Hughes has informed us of his intention to step down as leader after 8yrs. A volunteer is being sought to take over, anyone interested please contact DH or VW.
   7. ***Thursday 8-10 milers*** - **RD** – took over in April following AG retirement. Struggling to recruit currently 3, although walks are well attended by several members of the Monday group (6) RD stressed it is time to move on and that all previous members would be very welcome to re-join the group.
2. Ratification of the proposed new Constitution / Terms and Conditions. No objections were raised – ***The new constitution / terms and conditions were agreed and accepted***
3. Walks schedule / web site –Due to the stop start nature of covid it has not been possible to have a printed schedule of walks during 2019/21. For the foreseeable future it was proposed that we continue in this fashion as covid lockdowns may strike again in the winter.

Justification:

* For some groups it has proved difficult (with a limited number of walk leaders) to develop schedules for 3 to 4 months ahead as we have in the past.
* The web site allows greater flexibility for short notice changes.
* The web site allows improved accessibility to information for potential new members.
* Group members / leaders can manage the content of their own pages.
* Reduced cost of printing.
* Kinder to the environment reducing landfill waste.

This created some debate particularly with reference to the old-style printed syllabus.

**Agreed ... The web site will continue to be utilised, with the option of printing if required**.

It is recognised that there are some members who are “computer novices” and there is a need to ensure steps are taken which ensure they are kept informed. A Club-wide strategy would not be appropriate; therefore, we encourage each Group to devise an approach that meets their members specific needs.

Any member having difficulty accessing the website to check with group leader and copies will be printed out on request, N.B. to be aware that things can change and it’s a good idea to check with walk leader prior to a walk if you cannot check on the website.

1. Ramblers .. **agreed to continue with Ramblers membership**
2. Succession planning – VW outlined the need to have leadership teams, and suggested that training could be put in place if requested erg website use, walk leadership, risk assessment etc.
3. Proposal of a Membership fees of £10 for 2022 –

**The justification for this decision is:**

* The club’s membership has reduced from 300 (many were non walkers) pre covid to 136 currently.
* Costs for Insurance, Rambler’s affiliation, Webs site fees, potential licensing fees, Meetup, room hire etc. continues to increase.
* It is also important to ensure we can cover any future unforeseen situations as we found ourselves in, in 2019/21.
* We need adequate funds to enable us to support recruitment and new activities, negating the need to ask members for additional funding e.g., the new initiative of utilising “Meetup” as a recruitment tool.
* To offer training opportunities to members.

This item was debated and voted on, 17 voting for, 11 against, (7 assumed abstentions / did not vote -1 who left before the vote) **therefore it was agreed to be £10 for 2022.** Agreed that members wishing to pay in instalments to discuss options with group leader.

1. Informal discussion on future activities- discussed future events and projects that will add value to the clubs activities . Members asked for further information re the holiday planned for 2022. (Info on website or from your group leader)

Richard has offered to deliver training on using the web site, e.g., putting walks on Google Sheets, how to join and use Meetup, how to set and use the links and connect to the walking schedules etc.

1. AOB. Nothing raised.

Meeting closed at12.15pm Date of next meeting TBA

* **Web site .  
    
  1) Front p**agehas relevant **links** to weather, travel, BSW activities etc.  
    
  2) **About us** pagetells people about the BSW history.  
    
  3) **Join** page explains how to join.  
    
  4) **Contact** page has the joining form. Sends applications to Group Leaders.  
    
  5) **Walks** page links to the 7 walking groups with explanations about each.  
    
  6) The **7** walking pages have the syllabus for each walk updated every week.  
    
  7) Some **syllabuses** where relevant have links to the start of the walk via What3words, Grid refence finder and Google Maps. Click on these with a smart phone (some sat nav) and it will talk you in to the exact spot!  
    
  8) **Gallery** is for people to put their walk photos on … need showing how.  
    
  9) **Maps** is a page I’m working on to list Maps and routes of walks for members to download or print off. One day I hope to have OS maps on here for members to plan and plot walks / routes but………
* **Meetup..** is a platform for finding and building local communities.

The interim executive committee voted to join Meetup as a way of promoting the club to increase membership, as numbers have declined especially in the groups which attract newly retired members, e.g., Thursday 8-to-10-milers.

It is important that we continue to recruit to these groups as they act as feeders for the shorter walks groups when members decide they want to undertake less arduous activities after illness or later in life.

Meetup allows us to publicise events e.g. Holidays etc. in addition to our weekly walks.

It cost BSW to be on it but its free for members to use. ‘**Mid-week Wayfarers**’ is our page.

It’s a spart to catch a mackerel! All links go to BSW website.

Its usefulness will be assessed after the 1st six months.

In its first month it’s attracted nearly 80 interested members 3 of whom have joined BSW for walks. My goal is 20 by Easter!