

Dereham WaW Annual Public Meeting : 16 June 2018

PRESENT

from Dereham Walkers are Welcome: Tim Birt, Catherine Hawkins, Ken Hawkins, Sue Rothwell, Dorothy Sneesby and Martin Sneesby, plus Linda Goreham (Dereham Town Council)

supporters: 15 people attended, who had joined us on the preceding walk

1	Welcome and introductions On behalf of Dereham Walkers are Welcome, Ken Hawkins welcomed all present. He introduced and thanked the current Committee members, all of whom were present. Before commencing the agenda, Ken invited Linda Goreham to speak on behalf of Dereham Town Council (DTC). Linda referred back to the origin of Dereham Walkers are Welcome, which DTC had supported (and continues to do so), noting the earlier support for Ken as the town's Footpath Warden. She congratulated the group on their work in maintaining and promoting the public rights of way in the town.
2	Minutes of the 2017 meeting Copies of the minutes were circulated to all present. There were no questions or comments.
3	Report on activity during 2017 Copies of the Annual Return which covered 2017 (as prepared to meet National Walkers are Welcome requirements but with personal details removed), were circulated to all present; the feedback received was also included. From this report (also available at www.DerehamWaW.org.uk), Ken picked out some of the main activities undertaken in 2017, noting also the further work we had done in the last 6 months. He particularly referred to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the 2017 programme of walks and other events;• the work we had undertaken on path maintenance, including the use of an 'improved for you' plaque designed by us and purchased by DTC;• joint work with The Ramblers and The Conservation Volunteers;• support for the claims to have additional Restricted Byways recognised in the town, work led by Tony Needham (Town Clerk) with strong support from Ian Mitchell of The Ramblers - these were now in the final stage of the lengthy legal process to establish them;• the new and expanded <i>Dereham Walks</i> pack, widely distributed, including to neighbouring parishes through which one or more of our walks run;• the production and distribution (especially by Catherine and Sue) of Dereham Walkers are Welcome peel off logos to nearly 30 Dereham businesses, the majority of which had now also taken our walks packs - Catherine was regularly topping these up, such has been the demand; and• future plans, including a town walk in July, and a garden party walk in September, plus walks of the more usual pattern in August and October. All of this had been and is reported on our website, which is actively maintained by Tim Birt. The Annual Return was noted.

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4	Annual Accounts 6 April 2017 - 5 April 2018 Copies of the Annual Accounts were circulated to all present. Dorothy Sneesby (Treasurer) presented and explained them, noting that we were holding some £850 given to us at the winding up of the Dereham Society, who in turn had received it specifically for use relating to the Neatherd; we intended to ring fence it for this purpose. Dorothy also noted that we had annual commitments of about £300, covering our national Walkers are Welcome subscription and the fee for someone to attend the Annual Get Together, public liability insurance, website costs, the costs of this annual meeting and a subscription to the emerging About Dereham Partnership, with which we shared aims of promoting Dereham as a place to live and visit. These recurring costs were met through the small charges we made on our walks, and through any donations (such as those left at the meeting) or other sales we made. We had secured grant funding to print 3000 copies of an expanded <i>Dereham Walks</i> pack - £750 from DTC and £1390 from Tesco's <i>Bags of Help</i> fund (thanks to all who 'voted' for us!). The Annual Accounts were accepted.
5	Constitution Copies of the current Constitution were circulated to all present. It was noted that we had committed to reviewing the Constitution each year. The Committee did not propose any changes, and none were suggested by those present. The Constitution was therefore confirmed without change.
6	Committee Ken had earlier introduced and thanked the current Committee. On inviting anyone interested to join us, Jenny Atterwell offered, and her offer was welcomed.
7	Other business By way of conclusion, Ken mentioned the quiz that Sue Rothwell had prepared and was selling, and flyers for the town walk in July. There being no other business, the meeting was closed, with renewed thanks to all attending.