

Dereham WaW Annual Public Meeting

18 June 2022

PRESENT

Dereham Walkers are Welcome Committee: Tim Birt, Catherine Hawkins, Ken Hawkins, Sue Rothwell

Supporters: 8 others attended

1	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>On behalf of Dereham Walkers are Welcome, Ken Hawkins welcomed all present.</p>
2	<p>Minutes of the 2020 meeting</p> <p>Ken noted we had set ourselves 6 targets, and reviewed achievements against these.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 a litter pick to be held during the National Walkers are Welcome Litter Pick week in March: the national event had been called off (largely because of covid), and we had not so far been able to arrange one. 2 public walks to be held on a variety of days of the week: we had arranged walks for 2021 and 2022 on a variety of days. 3 new leaflet to be designed and printed: the new leaflet had been printed and distribution was planned, but to a much reduced number of outlets in order to limit the resource needed to maintain stocks. Currently planned locations were the Library, the Co-op (which funded it), Town Council offices (when again opened to the public), Mid-Norfolk Railway, Poppies (formerly Yaxham Waters), plus, in response to a suggestion at the meeting, Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum. 4 committee membership to be increased: Carolyn Coleman had joined us, and taken responsibility for our Facebook presence. Ken noted there was space for more people and invited anyone interested to let us know. 5 the increased interest in walking that has arisen as a result of lockdown restrictions to be built on and consolidated: Facebook had been started, and we had maintained our 'usual' publicity routes. The number on the emailing list had increased from around 100 to just short of 150, though not all joined the walks or made contact. 6 awareness of Dereham Walkers are Welcome to be raised amongst newcomers to the town by leafleting the new estates: we had not yet attempted this.
3	<p>Report on activity during 2021 and to date</p> <p>Copies of the Annual Return which covered 2021 (as prepared to meet National Walkers are Welcome requirements), together with the feedback from our mentor, had been uploaded to the website (http://www.derehamwaw.org.uk/docs/2021AccreditationFeedback.pdf), but copies were also distributed. This set out in more detail the work we had done during 2021. We were pleased with the feedback and the suggestions made.</p>
4	<p>Annual Accounts 6 April 2021 - 5 April 2022</p> <p>Copies of the Annual Accounts were circulated.</p> <p>We had started the financial year with £2589, made up of £1718 from the Co-op funding for printing and publicity, £857 ring fenced for spending related to the Neatherd, leaving just £15 free for other purposes.</p> <p>Our routine running costs amount to some £330 (public liability insurance £100, subscription to aboutDereham £12, subscription to national Walkers are Welcome £110, website maintenance £30, hire of room for the Annual Public Meeting £30, cost of attending the Annual Get Together about £40 (travel and accommodation costs are met by the attendee(s)), and a small gift to the Independent Examiner of our accounts £10. We had therefore transferred £200 from the Co-op money into our general operating budget (which had been indicated as acceptable by the Co-op because of covid).</p> <p>During the year we had met the usual operating costs, and also spent a further £873 on leaflets and booklets, plus £156 on stickers. Examples of all of these were available for</p>

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	<p>inspection.</p> <p>At the end of the financial year, we had £1610, made up of £489 earmarked for further printing and publicity, £857 for the Neatherd, leaving £264 free to meet operating costs. We anticipated that income from planned walks would enable us to meet all anticipated costs.</p> <p>The report prompted discussion about income from walks. It was noted that, before covid, we had often arranged for walks to end at somewhere offering refreshment, and we had negotiated a discounted price for this, and added a small supplement to provide our own income. Covid had brought this to a halt, but there had also been increasing reluctance from some who preferred just to have the walk and decide on their own refreshments separately; as a result, we had moved to seeking donations rather than making a charge. A majority of those present indicated they would welcome ending with refreshments once again.</p> <p>Arising from this, a question was asked about the level of donations received. Exact figures were not to hand, but it was thought to average about £1 per person. (A subsequent check showed that walks in 2022 had averaged a little less than this, at 95p.) Committee colleagues explained that the intention was to invite donations, but without excluding or stigmatising anyone who had limited resources; suggesting £2 had been considered, but rejected, though recent communications had included reference to our ongoing costs. Many present thought that £2 per walk was not an unreasonable amount to expect. The Committee agreed to consider this further.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p>	<p>Constitution</p> <p>Our constitution is available on the website at http://www.derehamwaw.org.uk/docs/constitution_2020.pdf. Ken noted that members of Walkers are Welcome were not simply walking groups (some were not at all), but had wider objects to encourage people who lived in or visited the town to contribute to the local economy. The objects from the Constitution were noted.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">6</p>	<p>Committee</p> <p>The current committee members are Tim Birt, Carolyn Coleman, Catherine Hawkins, Ken Hawkins and Sue Rothwell. Dereham Town Council has been represented by Philip Morton, who has strongly supported us in many ways.</p> <p>We are still very much open to increasing the committee membership further; if anybody new can join us they would be very welcome.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">7</p>	<p>Other matters</p> <p>7.1 In furtherance of the discussion on ending walks with refreshments, suggestions were made to consider The George and also The Swan in Gressenhall (though it was noted that the latter was not in Dereham, our main focus).</p> <p>7.2 Catherine noted that we undertook some moderate maintenance work, mainly clearing nettles and brambles, and wondered about the possibility of setting up a small team to help with this. Ken reported that he worked as the Town Council's Footpath Warden, and so was covered by their insurance; if we established our own team, we would need to provide that insurance. It was also pointed out that we would be required to meet the relevant health and safety standards. Nonetheless, expressions of interest were invited; depending on the interest, we would investigate the insurance and health and safety issues.</p> <p>All present were thanked for their attendance and their valuable contributions.</p>