

Dereham WaW Annual Public Meeting

29 April 2023

PRESENT

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

Supporters: 16 others attended

1	Welcome and introductions On behalf of Dereham Walkers are Welcome, Ken Hawkins welcomed all present.
2	Minutes of the 2022 meeting The minutes had been circulated before the meeting to all on the email list and a few copies were put on the tables for others. Ken updated on the issues discussed at the last APM in June 2022. 1 a litter pick had not been held this year as there was insufficient litter on the paths to warrant a separate exercise, but we would take a bag out with us when monitoring and arrange a pick if the need should arise 2 walks had been held, and were planned, on varied days, although the short and new very short walks were to a regular pattern to avoid confusion to walkers 3 there had been continued limited distribution of leaflets - which were also available at the meeting 4 committee membership had recently been increased by the return (as a leader of the very short walks) of Dorothy Sneesby 5 distribution of leaflets to new estates had not been attempted, because of a lack of resource
3	Report on activity during 2022 and to date A brief outline of our activity during 2022 was given (Wayfinding walk leaflets produced / 12 short walks run / very short walks started / 4 town walks run, 2 as part of Heritage Open Days week / Ken acting as voluntary Community Access Warden for Dereham Town Council, with strong support from Cllr Philip Morton / some maintenance work undertaken). The process of acquiring and sustaining accreditation was also explained. Copies of the Annual Return which covered 2022 (as prepared to meet National Walkers are Welcome requirements), together with the feedback from our mentor, had been sent out beforehand, but copies were also distributed. This set out in more detail the work we had done during the year. We were pleased with the feedback and the suggestions made.
4	Annual Accounts 6 April to 31 December 2022 We had changed the financial year to match the calendar year, so the current accounts were for 9 months only. It was noted that we needed to pay about £332 a year regardless of the level of activity. We had started the financial year with £1610, with £489 ringfenced from the Co-operative Community Fund for printing and £857 reserved for spending on the Neatherd, leaving £264 free. By the year end we had £2048, with the same sums reserved, but we had been able to establish a reserve of £300 and leave £402 free as required. The current intention was to increase the reserve to £400 (to cover one year's operating expenses).
5	Committee The current committee members are Tim Birt, Carolyn Coleman, Catherine Hawkins, Ken Hawkins, Sue Rothwell and Dorothy Sneesby. Dereham Town Council has been represented by Philip Morton, who has strongly supported us in many ways. We are still very much open to increasing the committee membership further; if anybody new can join us they would be very welcome.
	All present were thanked for their attendance and their valuable contributions.