

Dereham WaW Annual Public Meeting held via Zoom : 18th November 2020

PRESENT

Dereham Walkers are Welcome Committee: Tim Birt, Catherine Hawkins, Ken Hawkins, Sue Rothwell; apologies had been received from Jenny Atterwell.

Supporters: Three other people attended, apologies given by a fourth.

1	Welcome and introductions On behalf of Dereham Walkers are Welcome, the Chair welcomed all present.
2	Minutes of the 2019 meeting Copies of the minutes had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were no questions or comments.
3	Report on activity during 2019-20 Copies of the Annual Return which covered 2019 (as prepared to meet National Walkers are Welcome requirements), had been circulated prior to the meeting, together with the all feedback received. From this report (www.DerehamWaW.org.uk), some of the main activities undertaken in 2019 were highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the 2019-20 programme of walks and other events had all taken place• we have continued to carry out active monitoring and maintenance of the public rights of way• we have kept up the distribution of the free <i>Dereham Walks</i> packs to the shops and businesses who were happy to hold stocks of them, until the supply ran out. We had aimed to join in with the national Walkers are Welcome Litter Pick, but the start of lockdown in March prevented this. We had also planned to repeat the Town Walk and introduce a new Industrial Archaeology Walk during the Heritage Open Days week, but this had also been cancelled due to lockdown restrictions. We are planning instead to run these walks during the Heritage Open Days week in 2021. This way we will get free advertising for the walk, and although we cannot charge participants, we can sell the walk booklets. Two other related developments: Dereham Heritage Trust has had some involvement in the Paston Project. Dereham has an indirect link to the Pastons, in that John Fenn, who arranged for the publication of the Paston letters, lived at Hill House in Dereham. Dereham Heritage Trust is planning a display on the Pastons in the museum for 2021. As part of this, DWaW has been involved in designing a Georgian Walk that links all the significant Georgian buildings in Dereham (information drawn mainly from Boston and Puddy's 1750s map in their book about Dereham). aboutDereham, of which Dereham Walkers are Welcome is a member, has been involved in a Wayfinding Project – twelve new information boards to be placed around the town by May 2021. There may be another town walk designed to take the walker from information board to information board; this walk may be a self-guided one.

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4	<p>Annual Accounts 6 April 2019 - 5 April 2020</p> <p>Copies of the Annual Accounts had been circulated prior to the meeting. We had £110.58 remaining to spend at the end of the last financial year, and had spent £45 more than our income.</p> <p>Our main source of income apart from grants has been generated by charging for the public walks. We need to generate approximately £300 a year to meet fixed costs – the fee to National Walkers are Welcome, our insurance premium, website costs and subscription to aboutDereham. If we hold a face to face Annual Public Meeting we would also need to pay for the venue and refreshments.</p> <p>For a large part of this year it has not been possible to hold any public walks, although we did hold three walks when lockdown restrictions were partially lifted. As we had been out of operation for so long and we were unable to have our usual end of walk café visit for coffee and cake, we took the decision not to charge for these walks. We did welcome donations, however, and found that we made only slightly less this way that we would have had we charged £2 for the walk.</p> <p>We have £856.78 in the bank, received from the Dereham Society and set aside and reserved for a project to be carried out on Dereham Neatherd Moor.</p> <p>We will also receive a total of £1717 from the Co-op Community Fund, which has indicated that the money can be used for anything that serves the purpose of Dereham Walkers are Welcome, and not solely for what was planned when making the original bid. Although this money could be a useful buffer should we need it, it was agreed that we should aim to generate the income we need from other sources and use the great majority of the £1717 for printing the planned new leaflet. This will be a more elaborate design than the one-sided leaflet we had before, and will include links to the website rather than the actual routes and maps. The walks in the original Walks Packs can still be downloaded from the website and a master copy is held by the library for people to photocopy when the library is open.</p> <p>There was some discussion as to whether National Walkers are Welcome might waive the subscription fee, as some organisations are doing, due to restricted activity during lockdown. This issue has not been raised at the national committee recently but we will bring it up for discussion. It was agreed that a half fee would be acceptable.</p>
5	<p>Constitution</p> <p>Copies of the current Constitution had been circulated prior to the meeting. The proposed change to the Constitution was discussed. There are now only four members of the committee as one member is retiring. It had been decided therefore to reduce the quorum needed to make decisions from four to three, so that business can still be carried out even if one person was not able to attend any particular meeting. This change was acceptable to those present.</p>

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6	<p>Committee</p> <p>The current committee members are Jenny Atterwell (who is retiring), Tim Birt, Catherine Hawkins, Ken Hawkins and Sue Rothwell. Dereham Town Council has been represented by Philip Morton, who has been attending meetings and keeping in touch.</p> <p>Ken thanked Jenny for all her hard work as a committee member. She has taken an active part in meetings, and in particular has led the monthly short walks throughout the year, involving a substantial commitment on her part. It was agreed that we would send Jenny a thank you card.</p> <p>We aim to increase the committee membership in 2021, if anybody new can join us they would be very welcome.</p>
7	<p>Future activity</p> <p>In a general discussion on what Dereham Walkers are Welcome might do in the future, the following were suggested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a litter pick to be held during the National Walkers are Welcome Litter Pick week in March• public walks to be held on a variety of days of the week• new leaflet to be designed and printed• committee membership to be increased• the increased interest in walking that has arisen as a result of lockdown restrictions to be built on and consolidated• awareness of Dereham Walkers are Welcome to be raised amongst newcomers to the town by leafleting the new estates. <p>DWaW have convened a Zoom meeting of the other accredited towns in the Eastern region, which had proved useful. There are three accredited towns in Suffolk, three in Norfolk and two in Lincolnshire. Our Chair is mentor for the Suffolk and Lincolnshire towns, and the Chair of Clare Walkers are Welcome is the mentor for the Norfolk towns.</p> <p>Our Chair continues his involvement on the National Walkers are Welcome Committee, as Membership Secretary and also contributing to Walkers are Welcome responses to government initiatives such as the Glover Report, and the Environmental Land Management Scheme.</p>