

The Camping and Caravanning Club



Mountain Activity Section

Minutes of the Meeting of the Section Council held on 10th January 2018 at the Camping and Caravanning Club, Greenfields House, Westwood Way, Coventry CV4 8JH
The Meeting commenced at 11.00 am

Present:

Andrew Wood (President), Sandra Wild (Vice Chairman and Peakland Area Representative), Colin Wild (Secretary), Jenny Williams (Treasurer), John Gerner (PRO), Barry Cowlard (Elected Member), Les Morton (Membership Secretary, Rep to National Council - Elected Member), Toni Busuttil-Reynaud (Activity Editor – Elected Member), Bob Talbot (C &CC Representative), Sandra Wain (Minute Taker)

Chairman's Welcome

Vice Chairman Sandra Wild welcomed everyone and wished them Happy New Year.

1. Apologies for Absence

Trev Masters (Chairman), Terry Bishop (Vice President), Diane Goodyear (Vice President), Carole Booth (Vice President), Lesley Storey (Northern Area Representative), Deb Masters (Wessex Area Representative), Yvonne Plevy (Elected Member)

2. Approval of Minutes previously circulated

Committee Meeting: 9. National Council Report – Sabina Voysey has pointed out that she will be involving herself in all aspects of the Club, but has not specifically committed to solely attending youth events. The Minutes were then accepted.

Proposed: Barry Cowlard; Seconded: Jenny Williams

3. Matters Arising

First Special Executive Meetings following Committee Meeting:

The following were agreed:

- 1) Finance re authorisation of gift to Ruth Brown.
- 2) Gifts to Anne and Howard Crosland to be presented at 2018 AGM. Deb Masters has made a replica of MAS pennon.

Second Special Executive Meeting:

Agreed to pay the non-refundable costs to Tony-Busuttil-Reynaud for Wolverley. Tony thanked the Executive for this decision.

4. Correspondence

The Secretary highlighted the following items of correspondence:

- a) John Doyle has sent a letter of resignation due to ill health. John Gerner proposed a letter of thanks be sent to him for his contribution to MAS.
- b) John Allen has sent a communication expressing that he does not wish to be re-elected as Auditor. A letter of thanks will be sent to him after the AGM.
- c) Feedback has been received from Sabina Voysey after the September Meeting.

In relation to Section Subscriptions for single people, Darren Whittington, membership Services Director, had responded as follows:

“The Club’s membership product is designed for a household. We send a magazine each month, which is shared between the household. We send a renewal, which again covers both members. The only thing we do differently for single members is send one card on the welcome pack or renewal, instead of two. This unfortunately is not significant in cost to justify the lowering of a membership fee for a single member.

If the Club just lowered the cost for anyone only having one member on their membership, we would be asking memberships with couples on them to subsidise those memberships with just a single member, as the Club’s cost for fulfilling that membership would remain the same”.

Bob Talbot pointed out that this did not really answer our question as to the possibility of the Section applying a single person subscription. It was discussed whether applying a reduction for single membership for the Section would incur further expense and would the Section then have enough income needed to function. Bob Talbot will investigate if the Membership Department can cope with single membership subs for Section. Les Morton to try to work out how many single members we have in the Section.

- d) The social network leaflet that was available at the NFOL is not a new initiative/publication, it was given a new attractive cover so that members would know about the Sections. It is displayed at shows and included in new members’ packs that are issued at shows.
- e) Section Constitutions - Garry Barr, in his role as Secretary of Administration Committee, circulated the new constitutions to each Section, following approval by the National Council in February 2017 following an extended period of consultation with all Club Units. It was during this consultation period that questions should have been raised. Garry Barr did confirm that changes to the Constitution were predominantly about providing more freedom for Units to construct a Council/Committee of relevant officers. I note your specific concern in relation to 7f ‘Notices of Motion’ under Meetings: “For a motion to be carried it will require a two thirds majority of voting members present at the meeting”. This clause is included in all the constitutions. I suggest the best approach to take in terms of highlighting any concerns or questions you may have with this clause is to write to the Administration Committee Chairman.

Constitution to be discussed on this agenda at Item 12.

5. Any Matters Arising from circulated Minutes of Area Meetings

It was understood from the Northern Area Minutes that a representative will be at this January meeting, however no-one is present.

Dave Hall has asked about cash payments instead of cheques for expenses – this is acceptable as long as receipts are given. Bob Talbot informed the Meeting that a green paper is being produced about electronic payments.

Carole Booth, Frances Doyle and Lesley Storey will not be standing for re-election to Northern Committee.

Peakland – no matters arising.

No Minutes from Wessex since Wolverley Meeting – John Gerner will sort this out.

John Gerner reported that Wessex wish to change their name to Wessex Walking and Cycling Area. Approval will be sought at the short Section Meeting after the AGM.

6. Finance Matters

a) Treasurer’s Financial Reports

These were circulated previous to the Meeting and the Treasurer gave a summary of the present financial position. She pointed out that we had a loss of £271 this year; this has been the first time this has happened since the Treasurer was appointed. There has been a big rise in expenditure regarding Activity. This loss not a problem this year but needed to be monitored in the future.

Proposed: John Gerner; Seconded: Tony Busuttil-Reynaud
Reports accepted.
The accounts having been approved were signed by the Chairman.

b) Approval of regular financial commitments

2017/2018 £200 for website. Direct fuel payments for two meetings a year and one night camping fees where appropriate.

Proposed: Colin Wild; Seconded: Barry Cowlard. Accepted.

c) Disbursement to Areas

£200 in the past +£150 to hosts of Festival of Walking and Cycling.
It was agreed to continue in principle with these payments.

Proposed: Colin Wild; Seconded: Barry Cowlard. Accepted.

d) Section Inventory

The Treasurer read out the items on the inventory and it was agreed that Colin Wild will request return of National Pennon for AGM and Carole Booth would probably appreciate it if the display panels went somewhere else.

Accepted.

7) PRO Matters

a) PRO Report

PRO is happy with stocks at present but need to be kept under review. There are still copies of a promotional leaflet in circulation. As this is now out of date it was agreed to write them off.

Proposed: Barry Cowlard; Seconded: Les Morton. Accepted.

b) Promotion of Festival of Walking 2018

John Gerner had no information from Northern for the website or magazine. A write up will be put in Activity. John Gerner will contact John Bradley (Northern) for event to be put in the Featured Events Section of Out and About.

c) Website report

John Gerner checks things are ticking over and adds map references to meet information.

d) Website registration 2018 - this is OK.

8. Membership analysis

Les Morton reported that the information provided by Headquarters was not as clear as previously and figures were now doubled as separate individuals instead of households were given and there is no longer a breakdown of the type of members. This different format has made the job more difficult to administer (for example how many new joiners and members not renewing) and the membership secretary finds this unsatisfactory. A letter will be compiled to send to Membership re dissatisfaction of new system and what information is required.

9. National Council Report

Report accepted as read.

10. Activity Magazine – Review of costs and decision on future publications

Tony Busuttil-Reynaud apologised for no written report.

There has not been much input from members and extra costs have been incurred as one is put in new members' packs plus having to pay the full price for postage has pushed up the cost considerably. It was

proposed that all copies be emailed (apart from those who have asked for a hard copy) but continue to post the December copy to all members.

Proposed: John Gerner; Seconded: Barry Cowlard

The Vice Chairman thanked Tony on behalf of everyone for his time producing the magazine – his last production will be before the AGM and will include last year's AGM Minutes. Large paragraphs will be in the next edition asking for someone to take over this role.

Barry Cowlard pointed out that in the list of 'Officers' Howard Crosland is no longer Youth Officer and Deputy Officer to National Council should be Barry.

11. Matters of particular importance from Area Representatives

Northern are asking for helpers at the Festival of Walking.

Wessex has booked Beckford for the 2019 Festival of Walking and Cycling. It is a good field, has a club house, there are buses into Shrewsbury, opportunities for cycling and good walks.

12. New Section and Area Constitutions

Thanks were expressed to Colin Wild, John Gerner and Trev Masters for their work on the Constitution.

a) Feedback from Areas

There had been no specific feedback from Areas.

b) Decision on wording for inclusion on new constitution

6a) – Meetings: The MAS AGM is traditionally on the Saturday of the May Day Bank Holiday and this can fall in April and would therefore be unconstitutional. Therefore it needs to read **The AGM shall be held during April, May or June.**

Schedule B – Re number of Council members. Commenting on this, Bob Talbot said that the minimum has now been reduced to 6 elected members to help Sections. Maximum number of members must be divisible by three and then adopted at the AGM. Section Council should mirror Region which is 9 members, however it is proving difficult to get 9 for Section. The number required is to be inserted in Schedule B. Elected members must be greater than appointed members – these are Treasurer and other appointed members such as reps from Areas. It was agreed to set the number of Elected Members be **6**.

Schedule D –

a) For the Council to propose a Notice of Motion, obtaining the signatures of 25 members is logistically difficult. It was pointed out the National Council was asking for us to propose the new constitutions at the AGM without the necessity to obtain 25 signatures.

It was agreed that the Council could propose a Notice of Motion if it was agreed by **a simple majority of voting members present.**

b) Prior to the publication of a Notice of Motion, Council may decide that the decision may be decided by a postal ballot. This was one area that there had been considerable input from individual members. The feeling being that many members could not get to meetings because of ill health, travel distance, other family commitments. They were therefore denied the opportunity to partake in the decision making process.

It was pointed out that the new Constitution already has set a precedent for a postal ballot, In Section 5 (g) **'Members of the Council shall be elected at the AGM, which may include a postal ballot...'**

c) Where a Postal Ballot is undertaken a simple majority decision should be accepted. This would be in line with all other, normal democratic processes.

- d) It was discussed whether off site activities not covered by the Club's insurance was a constitutional issue. It was decided by a majority vote that this be left in.

As the Constitution has been discussed by the Section Council and reasons why changes have been made, it was decided to adopt the Constitution as put forward by the Sub Committee and to include it as an item in the AGM agenda for adoption with a straight majority of members.

Areas must also put forward their Constitutions at their AGM's for adoption by the members.

Proposed: John Gerner; Seconded: Colin Wild.
Agreed.

13. Election of President and Vice Presidents for 2018/19 (to be reported to AGM)

President: Andrew Wood

Vice Presidents: Carole Booth, Diane Goodyear, Terry Bishop and Christine Stevenson

To be notified at AGM.

Proposed: Barry Cowlard; Seconded: Sandra Wild
Agreed.

14. Certificate of Honour 2018

It was proposed that two members be put forward for the award of the Certificate of Honour in recognition of their service and it was agreed. The President agreed to write the citation and to liaise with Trev Masters to make the proposal to the Club.

15. AGM 2018 and Festival of Walking update

a) Council Vacancies 2017

John Gerner is prepared to stand for re-election

Liz Prior doesn't wish to stand for re-election

John Doyle has resigned.

If the new constitution is adopted before the election of officers then no further nominations will be necessary.

A new auditor will be required.

Jenny Williams is happy to carry on as Treasurer for one more year after the 2018 AGM.

The Secretary will look at rotation regarding the number of individual's years of office and report on this.

b) Proposed programme of Events for Festival of Walking and Cycling

The event is being run as a THS and opens at 1pm.

16. AGM 2019 and Festival of Walking and Cycling

a) Venue/Hosts

Beckford, near Tewkesbury. Hosts: Wessex

b) Dates – 2nd to 7th May 2019 (hall booked), follow on not yet decided

17. NFOL 2018 – Block booking

Not many MAS members have attended this in recent years. Les Morton will be going and anyone wanting to be included in the block booking needs to contact Les as he will administer this.

18. Review of decisions made and actions to be taken.

- Bob Talbot will investigate if membership can cope with single membership subs from Section.
- Wessex change of name - to be put on agenda of short meeting following the AGM
- Colin to arrange for National Pennon with Howard Crosland to be available for the FoW&C.
- Publicity material - Happy with stock but to keep under review
- John Gerner to contact Northern re Festival of Walking web requirements
- Colin Wild to contact Membership Secretary re breakdown of figures and express extreme dissatisfaction with new format
- Only the December issue of Activity to be posted to members
- Adoption of Constitution as stood and putting it as Agenda item at AGM in May
- Section Areas to put Constitution on Agenda at their AGM prior to National AGM
- Next full Section Council meeting to be held on Wednesday 3rd October at Greenfields House, Coventry at 11 am subject to room being available.

Date and Venue of next meeting, AGM Saturday 6th May 2018 at Harmby Village Hall, Brock Terrace, Leyburn DL8 5PG. This will be followed by a short Council meeting to elect officers for 2018/19.

The Meeting closed at 1.40 pm.

Signed.....
Chairman

Signed.....
Secretary

- e) Simple majority can be carried out if every member has been consulted, this may lead to the necessity for a postal vote.
- f) It was discussed whether off site activities not covered by the Club's insurance was a constitutional issue. It was decided by a majority vote that this be left in.

As the Constitution has been discussed by the Section Council and reasons why changes have been made, it was decided to adopt the Constitution as put forward by the Sub Committee and to include it as an item in the AGM agenda for adoption with a straight majority of members.

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To be notified at AGM.

Proposed: Barry Cowlard; Seconded: Sandra Wild

Agreed.

14. Certificate of Honour 2018

It was proposed that Howard and Ann Crosland be awarded the Certificate of Honour in recognition of their service and it was agreed unanimously that this was very appropriate as no-one was more deserving. The President will write to the Club nominating Howard and Ann.

15. AGM 2018 and Festival of Walking update

c) Council Vacancies 2017

John Gerner is prepared to stand for re-election

Liz Prior doesn't wish to stand for re-election

John Doyle is retiring

This takes down the number of elected members and although sufficient we still need more members. A new auditor is required.

Jenny Williams is happy to carry on as Treasurer for one more year after the 2018 AGM.

The Secretary will look at rotation regarding the number of individual's years of office and report on this.

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