

## Minutes of Sandbach Footpath Group AGM – 28<sup>th</sup> October 2019-10-29 -7.30pm

### MINUTES

1. **Apologies** were received from; Rose Booth, Pauline Wain, Nicola Coxon, Gina Rowe, Allan Walker, Marlis Dunning and Kay Hind.
2. **Approval of Previous Minutes.** With regard to works to be carried out on FP20 at Moston near the Canal. The works have not been done yet and the delay is with Canal and River Trust.
3. **Matters Arising;** Dingle Farm. Nothing heard about this yet.  
One to watch Houndings Lane Development has had a name change to New Crosses or new Crosses Square.  
Abbefields estate link to Rail Trail; Trevor has spoken to Redrow and Alwyn and when the 3<sup>rd</sup> Phase is started things may move forward.
4. **Elections.** The Officers, chairman and Treasurer to be elected. Proposed Chairman was Trevor Boxer proposed by Carolyn Lowe and seconded by Keith Haines. John Hind was also Re-elected as Treasurer, proposed by Carolyn Lowe and seconded by Dave Peever.  
Motions on both carried unanimously.
5. **Review of the Year** (Oct 2018 to Oct 2019)  
Walking Festival 2019 – Graham Whitehouse spoke about the Festival this being the first one and had had a lot of positive feedback. 37 walks over 9 days, 2000miles and 1,616 stiles with 500 attendees. Support from local business was good. The Quiz-Walk Treasure Hunt done by Jenny and Keith Haines was excellent and raised £300.00. We received grants from CEC Council and Sandbach Town Council towards the leaflets and literature. The Leaders of the Nordic Walking and Geology gave their time free of charge. It was a successful event and made a little money to carry over towards next year if repeated.

Miles without Stiles is progressing with the help of the grant approximately £21K from The New Homes Grant covering 66 stiles, converting them into kissing gates.

Bradwall Manor was completed last year and stile free.

Another 4 are quoted for at Hooter Hall in the near future.

Jacobs Ladder. There are a number along this walk and back towards Bank Farm. The order has been placed and hopefully the whole area will be soon stile free.

Bridgehouse Farm and Walnut Tree Farm (orders placed for stile free walks) will make circular walks from Malkins Bank and Winterley Pool.

Houndings Lane Farm we have received permission for the area in the Valley and also by the bridge near Tall Chimneys. This needs surveying by the Council.

Hassall House Farm FP8 – This has been agreed and the order placed.

Moston – Plant Lane to the Moat there are 19 stiles and will be a good circular walk.

Richardson’s Farm (Church House Farm, Moston) still needs some research doing.

## 6. Financial Report.

Overall report for all activities:

Sandbach Footpath Group				Presented at SFG AGM 30 Oct 2019				
<b>Financial Summary 2018/2019</b>				<b>Balance Brought forward</b>		<b>£394.70</b>		
<b>Cheques</b>			<b>Receipts</b>					
Number	Item	Value		Value				
LB00010	SFG Zurich Insurance 18/19	£84.00	MWS CE New homes Bonus fund	£20,998.00	Receipts	£23,665.64		
LB00011	SFG CVS Membership	£45.00	SFG Contributions	£393.64	Payments	-£2,834.33		
LB00012	SWF Bear Hunt Books	£30.00	SWF STC Grant	£750.00				
LB00015	SWF Printing	£118.59	SWF From Sandbach Quiz Trail	£304.00				
LB00016	SWF Links Consulting	£198.00	SWF Contributions	£770.00				
LB00017	SFG Open Spaces Soc	£45.00	SWF CEC Grant	£450.00				
LB00018	SWF Mixam Printers	£470.50						
LB00019	SFG Sandbach Today	£15.00						
LB00020	SWF Various items	£318.23						
LB00021	SWF Mixam Printers	£76.27						
LB00022	SWF Ground Works WM	£28.00						
LB00023	MWS Cheshire East PRoW	£1,321.74						
LB00024	SFG Zurich Insurance 19/20	£84.00						
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,834.33</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£23,665.64</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,831.31</b>		
						<b>Plus balance carried forward</b>		
						<b>£21,226.01</b>		
			<b>Total Balance to carry forward</b>				<b>£21,226.01</b>	

Summary report showing state of the categories:

Summary of balances at SFG AGM 30 Oct 2019					
Sandbach Footpath Group		Sandbach Walking Festival		Miles without Stiles	
Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income	Expenses	Income
£273.00	£393.64	£1,239.59	£2,274.00	£1,321.74	£20,998.00
<b>Balance</b>	<b>£120.64</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£1,034.41</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>£19,676.26</b>

- Review of Members;** We have over 1700 followers on Facebook and get good feedback from them about the walks and also some reporting issues and problems along the footpaths and posting evidence of these. We have 334 members on the email list. Guided walks usually happen most weeks, weather permitting.
- Closing of Sandbach Footpath 14.** This matter had gone before LGO (Local Government Ombudsman) for a public inquiry. The decision by the LGO was against a public inquiry and therefore was in favour of closing (extinguishing) FP14, but Chris Meewezen of the Open Spaces Society (OSS) wrote back to them querying findings with a possible maladministration. This will be going back before the LGO for review in November this year.

9. **Walking Festival 2020.** With regard to doing a Walking Festival in 2020 it was agreed that this should be done again and this was proposed by Dave Peever and seconded by Alan Boardman.

Graham Whitehouse said we need more volunteers next year to lead walks.

Ideas discussed were; Carolyn Lowe asked if the festival be moved to coincide with School Holidays to encourage more children. Graham advised that we do not have that many children joining the walks at weekends and it was suggested that during School Holidays quite a lot of people went away on vacation.

Trevor suggested that there should be a committee for 2020 Festival and any ideas be sent to him and then they can be discussed. Trevor had a few ideas where walks could be done next year that had not been done, one being Betchton Valley.

Carolyn Lowe wished to congratulate all involved in this year's festival.

10. **Report on PRow Consultative Group** meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2019; Trevor Boxer attended. There were 6 white roads (unadopted, so they are not highways, footpaths or roads) in Cheshire and their status where they connect to footpaths is being examined. The cutoff date of 2026 remains on the DMMO's although this may be extended, but 38 claims are still outstanding.
11. **Insurance;** Yearly turnover had increased above £5000, due to the fund to install kissing gates, but Zurich agreed to keep the premium the same as, in effect, this increase is a one off anomaly and will be spent converting stiles to kissing gates.
12. **Adopt a Path;** Forms were available to fill in with regard to cutting back the pathways under which members would be covered under CEC Insurance.
13. **Voluntary Donations;** It was agreed to keep the annual Donation of £5.00 or 50p per walk, whichever is the least.
14. **Constitution.** Changes to the Constitution; None.
15. **Any Other Business;**
- a) Graham Whitehouse and Jane Stanway had been discussing a Children in Need Walk for 24<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Possible Routes are Bradwall Manor or Town Trail or Saltline. TBC on venue. Volunteers were requested for this to be Back-markers or Marshalls. People attending the event would be encouraged to register on the Facebook link so that we have an idea of numbers. Funds being raised via a link to the page.
- b) Trevor wished to thank Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group and associated groups for their continued help and support with the Local Town Walks and the new walk being planned via Filter bed wood they do a fantastic Job.

Trevor then thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.