

SFG: Minutes from AGM 2022 / 2023

7.30pm, Thurs 31ST October 2024

**Wesley Centre,
Wesley Avenue, Sandbach.**

1. **Apologies**

Joan Chadwick, Robert Shaw, Greg Cooper, Jane Stanway, Karen Bowyer, Eileen Dornan, Richard Vickery, Andrew Saltaire, Andy Bailey, Iris Pointon.

2. **Approval of previous minutes**

1st Jonathan Granger ,2nd Richard Hovey

3. **Matters Arising**, None

4. **SWWG Update**, from Jonathan Granger – “Keeping step with SFG”.

Jonathan thanked SFG, for help with Footpaths, including the contribution to FP23 fencing.

Jonathan gave an update on SWWG projects, and on-going repair including: Brook Wood, St Marys Dell, Dingle Wood, Filter Bed Wood, Offley Wood, Park House Meadow.

Future projects include:

St Mary’s Wood path off High Street, Sandbach, including bridge.

FP23 completion, kissing gate work and bank protection near the Dancing Bridge (Geo Cache Group helping).

A big thank from SFG to all at SWWG for the hard work and wonderful results – round of applause.

5. **Chairman’s Report**

a)

Dingle Lane (leading from Well Bank to FP11, Sandbach Town). This was approved in Aug 2023 and is now shown on the CEC Definitive Map as FP52. This gives the Lane some protection from future development. Before it had no status and no legal protection.

Wrights Lane (off Heath Road, Sandbach Heath, leading to FP14)

Approved in Aug 2023 and is now shown on the CEC Definitive Map as FP53. This gives the Lane some protection from future development; before it had no status and no legal protection.

The official status gives the Lane some protection from the developers who have applied for building on adjacent land.

It may be important because it is some substitute for the part of FP14 lost (extinguished) in the Persimmon housing estate.

b)

Threats to Footpaths

Muller site in field on opposite side of A534 to B&M.

Footpaths 17, 18, 19, 50 affected. Muller have made numerous Planning Applications, some refused, some withdrawn, some approved by Cheshire East or the appeal inspector.

However, Anwyl Homes have informed SFG that they now own the site and assure us they have submitted new plans, but not published on the CEC website yet.

We have met with Anwyl and negotiated favourable routes for the FPs, so we are confident of an acceptable result.

Bridge on Hassall FP16, closed

We have used this footpath (FP) and bridge a few times recently.

We had to cross the footbridge one at a time, it was obviously weak, now closed as unsafe. Last time we walked the south side of the river.

c) Zurich Insurance.

This is valid until 29th April 2025, £157 (no change).

6. Treasurer's Report (JH) 2023-24

Cheques/ Outgoings			
Number	Item		Value
LB000053	Unity Methodist Church	Hall Rental for AGM	£40.00
LB000054	Peak & Northern Footpath Soc	Membership (PNFS)	£22.50
LB000055	2023 Walking Festival	Expenses	£864.40
LB000056	CVS	Membership	£50.00
LB000057	T Boxer	Zurich Insurance	£157.00
LB000058	Open Spaces Society	Membership OSS	£63.20
LB000059	T Boxer	Hi Viz & First Aid Kits	£83.78
LB000060	WhiteHursts Timber	Materials for FP23	£1,804.02
	Expert Hosting	Domian 2023/2024	£60.00
	Expert Hosting	Hosting 2023/2024	£108.00
	Expert Hosting	Hosting 2022/2023	£144.00
Totals			£3,396.90

Receipts				
	Value	Balance Brought forward		£5,261.63
Member Subs / Donations	£599.08			
		Receipts	£599.08	
		Outgoings	-£3,396.90	
Totals	£599.08		-£2,797.82	
		Balance to carry forward		£2,463.81

7. Spring and summer walking weekends

Spring walks were well supported, but the dawn chorus less so.

The two summer weekend walks were also well supported. 12 walks over two weekends.

Discussion re no Festival in 2024.

Meeting agreed weekend walks were a good compromise.

8. New Year's Day Walk.

We usually have a walk with refreshments (mulled wine?) at Sandbach United Football Club on NYD. Discussion re the charity and £ donation.

Agreed £3.00 and Sandbach Food Bank

John Hind has already booked the SUFC

9. Review of members and progress,

a) Facebook, about 5700

b) Email list, about 650

c) Guided walks, about 110 walks in 2024

Fridays SUFC – many thanks to John

Weekly walks, including some evenings in summer

Occasional Sunday walks

Leaders – any volunteers?

10. Reports: closures, diversions, or threats. See item 5. b)

11. Adopt-a-Path, secateur work and litter picking, reminder.

Please download the authorisation form from the web-link below:

<https://www.sandbachfootpaths.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/volunteer-waymark-and-veg-cut-registration-letter.pdf>

12. Election of Officers. Officers were elected in 2023 for 2 years, so if they are agreeable, they can continue to stand for another year.

Trevor Boxer – Chairman, John Hind – Treasurer, Kay Hind – Secretary, Janet Luther – Vice Chair.

All officers agreed to stand for another period, and this was agreed with no objections.

KH has continued to post SFG walks on FaceBook.

13. Date for next meeting to be announced nearer the time, probably meeting in October 2025.