

SANDBACH FOOTPATH GROUP (SFG)

Minutes of Annual General Meeting Held on Thursday 5th October 2017, 7.30pm at Wheelock Methodist Church Hall in The Hancock Room

Present : 20 Attendees

Apologies: Sue Thomas, Dave Thomas, Pam Roberts, Peter Roberts, Paul Hughes, Jenny Patterson, Gina Rowe, Dick Macauley, Phil Wyatt, Jayne Bunn, Greg Cooper, and Janet Jepson.

FP = footpath, FB = facebook, CF = Carried Forward

Welcome and introductions

Trevor Boxer (TB) Welcomed all to the meeting and asked them to sign the register.

1. Voting

As the 2 year period as chairman has ended for Trevor he offered to stay in place as Chairman for a further term, proposed by Carolyn Lowe, seconded by Keith Haines
Motion carried unanimously.

Greg Cooper stepped down as Treasurer and John Hind has agreed to stand for the position, proposed by Graham Whitehouse, seconded by Jacky Painter
Motion carried unanimously.

Phil Wyatt stepped down as Public Right of Way Liaison with Cheshire East and Graham Whitehouse (GW) offered to take over.

2. Matters arising from previous Minutes (Please go to SFG Website to view and print the Minutes sandbachfootpaths.wordpress.com)

Schools, guided walks – encouraging local schools to use local footpaths was discussed at the last meeting and as nothing seemed to arise from this it was agreed to let the matter drop.

3. Financial Report

Sandbach Footpath Group

Financial Summary 2016/2017

Cheques

Number	Ref	Item	Value
RBS000005	1617-01	Public Liability Ins	£82.50
RBS000006	1617-02	Masonic Hall Hire	£50.00
LB000001	1617-03	Hi Viz Vests	£64.80
LB000002	1617-04	Donation to SWWG	£200.00
LB000003	1617-05	Sandbach Today	£15.00
		Bank Charges RBS	£16.61
Total			£428.91

Receipts

Number	Value
500001	£102.50
500002	£46.61
500003	£55.00
500004	£36.50
500005	£3.50
500006	£94.50
Bank Charges Return RBS	£10.00
	£348.61

Bank Balance, Lloyds £453.20

John Hind explained the financial report, drawing attention to the change from RBS to Lloyds, to avoid bank charges.

4. **Members.** The number of Facebook Members has now reached 950 Members and 192 on the mail list with the possibility of some overlap of Members being on both lists. There are usually at least 1 walk maybe 2 per week, weather permitting.
5. **Reports –**
 - a) **Dingle Lane** development has again been refused so the path will not be imminently affected and an Application for PRoW has been made with the relevant supporting documents and this may take up to 2 years to complete.
 - b) **Lost Footpath.** Arclid FP9 to Hemmingshaw Lane is shown on the 1938 Ordnance Survey map. SFG and Open Space Society (OSS) have put in a claim for it to be re-instated. This is now in the queue and, again, may take up to 2 years to complete.
 - A **permissive path** near Arclid Quarry (south of A534), to join Arclid FP3 to Hemmingshaw Lane may be completed by Bathgate. This would avoid walking through the farm yard.
 - c) **Orphan and lost Paths –** TB has been in touch with Highways regarding the cutting back of verges and hedgerows to facilitate access to the footpath near to the M6 Motorway and also hopes to join several Orphan Paths in the area. He had no response to date on this. Christine Smedley may have found another lost Footpath locally.
 - d) **Fault reporting.** With regard to reporting faults and problems, it was agreed that GW post on the FB page the link to enable people to report these.
6. **Masterplan.** This map is on the SFG website.
 - a) **Waterworks** - as far as we can tell none of the Footpaths will be affected in this area due to planned construction work.
 - b) **Dingle** see item 5
 - c) **Capricorn** (near M6) – Discussion is continuing and we are hopeful of a good outcome with regard to FP11 and hopefully all the FP's will join. Dick Macauley is trying to obtain funding for the bridge.
 - d) **Abbeyfields** (off Middlewich Road) - The footpath on the plans linking to the Salt Line do not appear to have progressed, but discussions may prove fruitful one day in getting this passed.
 - e) **Elworth Hall Farm** – Plans are proposed to have a footpath joining Grange Road to Cookesmere Lane. This will be a great country walk if this comes to fruition.
7. **Accessible Routes –** No change in this since the Radar keys locks were introduced on the Wheelock Rail Trail last year. The walk recently opened near to The Rookery and Moss Lane (Towpath) which is accessible for wheelchairs. TB to check this walk.

Gate-only walks.

BRADWALL MANOR walk - Bradwall Parish Council has recently put in 5 gates in place of stiles on Bradwall FP1. There are still 6 stiles on Sandbach FP7 and Bradwall FP5, and GW has done letters to Taylor Wimpey and Seddon regarding funding to enable the last ones to be changed, including a double stile and footbridge, and enable a Stile free walk. The cost is mooted to be £265.00 for the gates and £65 to fit. TB is applying for a grant from Sandbach Town Council for the kissing gates on Sandbach FP7.

CRABMILL WALK – Apparently this has a double stile with bridge. TB asked GW to take a photograph of the of it so we can see the design.
8. **PRoW** meeting at Cheshire East (CEC) – Chris Meewezen attended the CEC meeting, but was not at this SFG meeting so no information on this at present.
9. **Insurance** - Motion carried to continue with Zurich.
10. **Adopt-a-Path –** Please take secateurs to trim the stile/gate area – please apply for authorisation letter from CEC. TB can provide details. This then covers the individual on CEC's Insurance for any potential mishaps and also, please take a carrier bag to collect any litter.

11. **Voluntary Contribution** – The amount was discussed and the general feeling was to stay at £3.00 per year or 50p per walk whichever is the greater. To be reviewed again next year, because two people were suggesting the £3 be increased to £5, but the 50p was about right. Some of this money may be used to fund future gates or stiles or other local Schemes such as Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group to whom we donated a while ago to help with work at Dingle Wood walk.

12. **Changes to Constitution** – The meeting noted that insurance is now stated in our name rather than within a partnership with SWWG.

13. **AOB** –

Keith Haines mentioned the Quiz in aid of Sandbach Clean Team for teams of up to 6 People on Saturday 21st October 6.30 to 7.00 tickets cost £7.00 with a fish and chip supper included. (vegetarian alternative but please let organisers know in advance) Raffle tickets also available. GW to put on SFG FB page.

DINGLE WOOD, new bridge – The official opening, by Fiona Bruce, is to take place Saturday 14th October at 11 am whereby a short walk will follow in aid of Children in need. GW to again put on FB Page.

Cllr Carolyn Lowe thanked Trevor Boxer for all his dedication and hard work with Sandbach Footpath Group.

Date of next meeting October 2018 to be advised.

Venue to advised.

Meeting closed at 8.30pm