

SANDBACH FOOTPATH GROUP (SFG)
Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on
Tuesday 30th October 2018, 7.30pm,
at Wheelock Methodist Church Hall, Hancock Room.

Present: 24 attendees.

Apologies: Richard Vickery, Chris Meewezen, Paul Hughes, Jacky Painter and Maggie Knowles.

Welcome and Introductions (TB) Trevor Boxer welcomed all to the meeting and asked that everyone sign the register.

1. **Election.** The Officers. Chairman (TB) and Treasurer. John Hind (JH) were elected at the previous AGM and stand for two years. Jane Stanway was proposed to stand for a further two years as Secretary by Dave Peever and seconded by Pat Boxer. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **Matters arising:** TB drew the meetings attention to the previous minutes which were shown and are available on the SFG website. There were no matters arising, not already on the agenda.
3. **Financial Report** by John Hind;

Sandbach Footpaths Group
Financial Summary 2017/2018

Cheques			
Number	Ref	Item	Value
LB00004		Zurich Insurance	£84.00
LB00005		Wheelock Methodist	£20.00
LB00006		CVS Membership	£45.00
LB00007		Open Spaces Soc	£45.00
LB00008		Sandbach Today	£15.00
LB00009		CE Borough Council	£1,500.00
Total			£1,709.00

Receipts	
Number	Value
500007	£52.50
500008	£1,000.00
500009	£154.00
500010	£80.00
500011	£339.00
500012	£25.00
	£1,650.50

Balance Brought forward	£453.20
Receipts	£1,650.50
Payments	-£1,709.00

Balance to carry forward	£394.70
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- 4.
5. **Review of Members:** a) 1329 Facebook Members and b) an Email list of 222 are the present numbers. c) SFG do 1 or 2 guided walks per week (weather permitting) and on average 12 people attend.
6. **Reports;**
 - a) **Accessible paths,** see 6. Masterplan.
 - b) **Stile Free Walks;** There remains one stile on the Bradwall Manor walk. All the others have been made into Kissing Gates. TB left a message with the developer and he was on leave for a week and will address this upon his return. TB Thanked Graham Whitehouse for this idea and all his efforts on this walk (and other matters) making it the first (nearly) Stile Free walk in the town. A well-deserved round of applause.

b) (continued) Windfall Grants; Money allocated to good causes is mooted to be £320K. Each project will have £10K minimum with no maximum and this is to be called **The New Homes Bonus Funding Scheme** within CEC encompassing Congleton, Crewe, Knutsford, Macclesfield, Nantwich Poynton and Wilmslow. TB proposes to make a bid for all walks or as many as possible to be stile-free to the benefit of more people. The areas include Arclid, Betchton, Bradwall, Moston, Haslington, Hassall, Smallwood and Warmingham. TB has written to the Parish Clerks of these and has received positive responses with the exception of Smallwood who wish the Stiles to stay. David Sprosan kindly volunteered to help map the stiles. JH and TB will attend a training meeting on the Bonus Funding Scheme on 7th Nov 2018. Action plan to be written. Applications to be submitted by end of Dec 2018.

Carolyn Lowe proposed an official vote to apply for the New Homes Bonus Funding Scheme within Sandbach and adjoining paths and Keith Haines seconded.
It was carried unanimously.

c) Lost Paths. TB showed a typical lost path. A small group is working on claiming them before the cut-off date of 2026.

d) Orphan Footpaths, are dead ends or end on dangerous/busy roads. Any stiles on these will not be a priority for b) above.

e) Path Closures. TB showed the temporary diversion for Sandbach FP14, off Hawthorne Drive. Also, the paths round Arclid Quarry South to be permanently diverted due to quarry expansion.

f) Fault Reports. The Canal bank at Moston FP20 is dangerous and TB has spoken to Phil Mason who leads the Care4ce Team and they have agreed to make good (hopefully, without charge) and the Canal and River Trust may provide the materials. Work to be carried out before end of Jan 2019.

7. **Sandbach Footpath Masterplan;**

The Masterplan was produced in March 2018 by Grassroots Disability, Sandbach Partnership, Sandbach Woodland and Wildlife Group and SFG to ask planners and councillors to remember footpath accessibility in planning applications.

See SFG Website, on the page titled "About Sandbach Footpath Group".

Brook Wood : It is hoped there may be a new footpath running alongside the brook at the other side along the fence which would then meet up with Mill Hill Lane.

Capricorn : 3 possible routes with regard to footpaths there and vigilance is needed on this matter to ensure that they stay on the plan.

Abbeyfields : A footpath was shown on the application, but has not been made.

Wheelock Rail Trail : This walk is difficult as it crosses the very busy A534. It is mooted to have either a crossing or at the very least an island to facilitate easier crossing, making it more accessible for all.

Elworth Hall Farm : It is hoped that there may be a Footpath to enable access to Cooksmere Lane to avoid walking along busy roads.

Councillors and Planners need to be reminded of the Masterplan.

Building sites.

a) Waterworks. Nothing new to report.

b) Dingle Farm. The latest application has been refused, but the site now appears run down.

c) Capricorn. Applications pending, but see Footpaths Masterplan, above.

d) Abbeyfields. See above.

e) Elworth Hall Farm. See above.

f) Houndings Park. Footpaths 17,18 and 19 This was walked last Sunday (28th October). The plans seem to reduce parts of the footpaths to ginnels. SFG members will have to write in their objections to try and ensure that the developers keep the footpaths as proper footpaths according to the DEFRA Guidelines, rather than narrow ginnels.

8. **PRoW Meeting Report** 9th October 2018. Nothing concerning Sandbach to report.
9. **Insurance** has been paid as per the financial report.
10. **Adopt a path**, secateurs work etc. There is a form to download or available from TB to complete and return to CEC who will then issue you with a letter which should be taken whilst walking and cutting back vegetation on public rights of way.
11. **Voluntary Donations.** Jenny Haines proposed raising the voluntary annual donation to £5.00 per year and 50p per walk (was £3.00 and 50p), seconded by Dave Peever and carried unanimously.
12. **Constitution.** No changes to the Constitution were needed.
13. **AOB.** Cllr Carolyn Lowe thanked TB for all his dedication and hard work with Sandbach Footpath Group.
TB then thanked all for attending and closed the meeting at 8.30pm.