

A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 1st December 2005

Present:

Cyril Bean, Iris Bean, Bob Brandon, David Burrin, Jeff Cutler, Bill Day, Adrian Dyke, Hazel Dyke, Bill Eve, John Green, Bill Hartnett, Fiona Jones, Peter Page, Bernard Roebuck, Ian Tanner, Frank Tonkinson, Anne Wade, Ron Weston.

1. Apologies

Miranda Aston, John Aylmer, Bob Carey, Keith Greenall, Greta Greenall, Doug Shelton and Ulli Ull

2. Minutes of the 2004 AGM - Agreed.

3. Matters Arising - No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Annual Report

John Green outlined the great strides ACWA have made over the past year, highlighting in particular:

- Publicity Leaflet published. Copies were available for all present to collect supplies. John has found it useful for handing to walkers he meets on the way, and suggested others might like to carry copies to give to any interested people they meet.
- Notice Boards now almost all deployed. At Coombe Country Park an A0 copy has just been installed within the visitor centre, and the last from the original plan will be installed at Sutton Stop shortly.
- Geocaching has progressed well – see web site for details.

John thanked all members of the team who have supported our effort so well. We do however lose some, and are always looking for more volunteers.

Particular mention must be made of Bill Day who has supported ACWA in so many ways over the years. Bill has recently resigned as an Overseer – John thanked Bill for all his contributions.

Next year will see enhanced activities with working parties, starting with a joint event with Kenilworth Footpath Preservation Group (KFPG) in mid-January to start replacing all the stiles on the "After Tea" walk at Stoneleigh.

Book Sales have been exceptionally successful over the past year, with some 4000 out of the 5000 21 Circular Walks books printed now sold. Work is in hand to produce a new 40-mile Circular Walks book, and by this time next year we will need to embark on an update/re-print of the 21 Circular Walks book.

5. Statement of Accounts

Copies of the accounts and a report from John Aylmer (Treasurer) were distributed. They show a healthy balance following the good book sales, and positive net returns from the Godiva Festival and Challenge events. John G thanked John A for his good work, and Iris Bean for her audit.

6. Membership Fee for 2006 - remains at £3 per household.

7. Membership Contribution rules

To clear up confusions, which have arisen, a set of rules has been drafted. These were put to the meeting, and agreed by all. The rules are:

- Annual fee covers the calendar year Jan to Dec
- Honorary membership (with no fee) would be granted to individuals who in the opinion of the committee have given valuable support to A Coventry Way Association.
- Fees will be collected from the December AGM through to April, with paper copies of the newsletters being sent to all who paid the previous year, the current year, or are honorary members. Beyond April lapsed members would be sent an individual reminder by post, and receive email or paper reminders at the time of the next newsletter.

8. ACWA Constitution

The Constitution was last updated in Dec-2000. A further update was needed, drafted and sent to all with the Nov-2005 newsletter.

This was agreed by the meeting with no further amendments and the issued version is attached as Annex A.

9. Committee, Overseers and other Volunteers for Specific Duties for 2006

ACWA Committee and Officers for 2006 were proposed and seconded. There being no further proposals from the meeting, they were declared elected.

A request for further volunteers to become Overseers was made, but no new volunteers emerged. Any readers of these notes, who would like to volunteer, please contact us.

The full list is attached as Annex B.

10. Countryside Access and Rights of Way Improvement Plans (CAROWIP)

John Green explained how local authorities are now required to produce and implement a CAROWIP. Warwickshire CC have drafted their plan, and it is out for comment (details given, and also from website). The Warwickshire document is very impressive, covering most aspects we wished to see. From it we should benefit from increased activity in improving footpaths, building on the good progress already made over recent years.

ACWA will contribute by adopting a more proactive approach to organising working parties. In outline:

- ACWA would locate and contact the landowners and discuss the work that we would like to carry out in conjunction with WCC
- WCC will provide two ACWA nominees (John Green and Bob Carey) with an introductory letter to use when contacting landowners
- WCC will supply materials for ACWA WP to carry out agreed projects, on agreed dates

A lively discussion on this item covered aspects of tool provision, training and risk assessment. John confirmed that all were in hand. Again, more volunteers are invited.

Cyril Bean pointed out that a further advantage of the new approach was that some working parties could be organised on Saturdays or Sundays, enabling those still at work during the week to take part.

11. Date of ACW Challenge 2006 - Sunday 3rd September

The date has been confirmed and published, and applications to participate are invited.

12. Any Other Business

a. Award

On 8-Nov-2005, Coventry scooped a major international award when the city won the category for cities with populations of 200,000 to 750,000 in the International "Awards for Liveable Communities" held in La Coruna, Spain. Cyril Bean was involved in supporting Coventry CC in preparing their bid, which included strong references to ACW.

For more information see <http://www.acoventryway.org.uk/news-award2005.htm>, which includes links to the Coventry CC website, and to a video used as part of the presentation.

b. The Nook & Old Mineral Line (Bedworth)

Ron Weston has been helping promote the development of the route of the mineral line from Newdigate colliery to the Coventry Canal, then between the Golf Course and Coventry Canal to Hawkesbury Junction as a "Greenway". The route exists, and much of the route is owned by the Newdigate family who are sympathetic. Ron will be formally making his proposal linked to the invitation included in the Warwickshire CAROWIP report.

Linked to this is the creation of an improved path along "the Nook" (a causeway originally used by the miners, and now going through an area with lakes). Since last year, "The Friends of The Nook" have been formed, have taken over this part of the plans from Groundwork, and employed a new contractor to carry out the work. Work is expected to start at some time over the next month or two.

ACWA are keen to encourage these developments, which in time could lead to a much better route through Bedworth, avoiding most of the stretch along Astley Lane.

c. Allesley Walled Garden

Bernard Roebuck asked about the request included in Maureen Harris's article in the Nov-2005 newsletter. Maureen said "Why not create a circular walk based on the walled garden?". John Green said this would be discussed at the next Overseers meeting.

d. Next Overseers Meeting

This will be held on Sunday 19th February 2006 at 7pm at 46 Benedictine Rd.

Constitution of "A Coventry Way Association"

- 1) The name of the organisation shall be "A Coventry Way Association" hereafter called ACWA.
- 2) Aims of ACWA are: -
 - ❖ To promote A Coventry Way (ACW) for the benefit of the community as a Long Distance Path.
 - ❖ To support local authorities in maintaining ACW with working parties drawn from the membership.
 - ❖ To organise annually a walk that encourages all grades of recreational walkers (including charity walkers) to get into the countryside around Coventry. The event to include a challenge section that would appeal to athletes as well as competitive walkers.
 - ❖ Encourage the use of public transport to get into the countryside near to Coventry.
 - ❖ To make available a reasonably priced and up to date copy of ACW Guide Booklet.
 - ❖ To produce and make available copies of circular walks linked to ACW.
 - ❖ To introduce people to long distance walking and acquaint them with the three other Long Distance Walks close to Coventry. (Centenary Way, Heart of England Way and The Coventry - Oxford Canal Trail)
 - ❖ Encourage all users to abide by The Country Code.
 - ❖ To raise sufficient funds/support/sponsorship to achieve the aims noted above.
 - ❖ Wherever possible on the Way, encourage and support the local authorities in making access suitable for wheelchairs and disabled horse riders.
- 3) Members shall be admitted to membership after payment of an initial subscription. Anyone falling more than three months into arrears with their annual subscription will be deemed to be no longer a member of the ACWA.
- 4) The amount of the subscription shall be determined by resolution at the Annual General Meeting of ACWA.
- 5) The subscription for the following calendar year shall be set at the AGM.
- 6) Members can be made an Honorary Member at the Annual General Meeting, or at a Special General Meeting of ACWA, or at a Committee Meeting.
- 7) Only those fully paid up members, or honorary members, shall be allowed to vote at any meeting of ACWA. A Family membership shall be entitled to one vote.
- 8) The Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting of ACWA, for a period of one term. They will be eligible for re-election at the end of the term at the next AGM of the ACWA.
- 9) The officers to be elected at each AGM shall be Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 10) The Committee shall consist of Chairman, Secretary, plus a maximum of four fully paid up members. The Treasurer may be on the committee if elected.
- 11) The Annual General Meeting will be held every year in the months of November or December. The meeting shall be held, not only for the election of Officers, but also for the purpose of informing all members of the progress and forward planning of ACWA. The Audited Accounts will be presented for inspection. Auditors can be appointed at any General or Special meeting, but will normally be appointed at the AGM
- 12) Any paid up member can call a Special General Meeting, provided that the reason is put in writing to the Secretary, at least two weeks before the meeting is to take place.
- 13) All members shall be notified three weeks before an AGM can take place.
- 14) Eight members are required to be present, including two officers of ACWA, at any Special General or Annual General Meeting, before any such Meeting can take place.
- 15) Committee meetings will take place usually bi-monthly, with a minimum of four meetings to be held in any one year.
- 16) The powers of the Committee with regard to the borrowing of money, or acquiring property, can only be authorised by a vote of members at an Annual or Special Meeting.
- 17) ACWA constitution can only be amended at an Annual General Meeting, providing two thirds of those present vote for change. Any member seeking to alter the constitution must provide the Secretary with the complete written details of the intended amendment four weeks prior to the AGM taking place. All members will be notified of any intended alterations to the constitution three weeks prior to the AGM taking place.
- 18) Members can be co-opted onto committees or sub committees, to fill any vacancies or otherwise, at any Committee or Special meeting of ACWA and have the full powers of a committee member until such times as the next AGM
- 19) In the event of ACWA winding up, the allocation of all assets belonging to ACWA after all liabilities have been settled, shall be decided at the wind up meeting, where a majority vote will suffice from two thirds of the members voting. A Family membership shall be entitled to one vote.

The full current list of Officers, Committee Members, Other Volunteers and Overseers is:

Officers

Chairman	John Green
Secretary	Peter Page
Treasurer	John Aylmer
Auditor	Iris Bean

President

President	Cyril Bean
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Committee

Chairman	John Green
Secretary	Peter Page
Treasurer	John Aylmer
Committee Member	Bob Brandon
Committee Member	Bernard Roebuck
Committee Member	Bob Carey

Other Volunteers for specific duties

Membership Secretary	Peter Page
Webmaster	Peter Page
Newsletter	Bob Brandon
ACWA Challenge	Bob Brandon & Bob Carey
Press Officer	Bill Hartnett
Volunteer co-ordinators	John Green & Bob Carey
Geocaching	Keith Greenall & Cyril Bean
Book Sales	Keith & Greta Greenall, Cyril & Iris Bean

Footpath Overseers

Overseers Chairman	John Green (including lead interface with Local Authorities)
Walks 1, 2 & 3	John Aylmer
Walks 4, 5 & 6	Miranda Aston & Ulli Ull
Walks 7, 8 & 9	Bill Hartnett & Bill Ewes
Walks 10,11 & 12	Frank Tonkinson & Doug Shelton
Walks 13, 14 & 15	Peter Page (acting) & Bernard Roebuck
Walks 16, 17, 18, 19, 20 & 21	Bob Carey & Alan Townsend
Roving Overseer	Peter Page (i.e. any walk as requested by chairmen or any other overseer)
A Coventry Way	Bob Brandon