

A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 3rd December 2008

Present:

John Aylmer, Cyril Bean, Iris Bean, Bob Brandon, Bob Carey, Bill Day, Bill Eve, John Green, Ken Nicholas, Peter Page, Bernard Roebuck, Doug Shelton, Frank Tonkinson, Stan (Kim) Veasey, Anne Wade, Leslie Wake, Steven Wake, Ron Weston.

Apologies

Miranda Aston, Dave Burrin, and Ulli Ull

1. Minutes of the 2007 AGM (Tue 04-Dec-2007 – Issue 2) - Agreed.

Issue 2 was handed out at the meeting. Issue 2 was created to improve wording and more accurately summarise historic facts re early days of ACW

2. Matters Arising

At the 2007 AGM, Bernard Roebuck proposed that we should give certificates to all participants on the Challenge, even if they only completed part of the route. This has been considered, but no decision made due to the many other aspects needing to be dealt with in connection to the change of date for 2009.

3. Chairman's Annual Report

John Green presented the Chairman's annual report, saying:

"I have been in an unusual position for a Chairman this year. Due to ill health I have not been in a "hands on" position but as an "onlooker" watching the progress and the activities of our Association

Again this year the Association has gone from strength to strength under the guidance of the President, Officers, Committee and Overseers - with a special mention of Bob Carey who took on extra duties when I became inactive.

Working Parties have met for work each third Wednesday in every month throughout the year. The results of their labours can be seen on the Berkswell Greenway, at Kenilworth Golf Course, Stoneleigh, Barnacle and Ansty. This work, coupled to the new waymarking of A Coventry Way (still much to do) is being admired by the many walkers who have braved this wet 2008. I am delighted to announce that two new volunteers have joined the group but there is still room for more.

Book sales have been vibrant with only about 100 books left from the revised book printed 15 months ago and with orders coming in from our various outlets your committee agreed to a father reprint of 2000. This is taking place at present. We are grateful for storage facilities provided by Mike Murray and his team at the Grange.

The Godiva Festival again provided the Association with a chance to tell the people of Coventry about our activities and a pleasant two days was had by those involved.

The September Challenge attracted our first entrant from abroad and whilst the going under foot was very soggy in places no reports of "trench foot or web feet" have been reported

And so to the future.

A new date for the Challenge has been agreed and entrant applications are already being received. I am reliably informed that the "date slices" so well received at this years feeding stations will again be available. The Working Party will begin again in January with the Solihull and Warwickshire Countryside teams vying for our services. The Association awaits an invitation to The Godiva Festival and the Warwickshire Walking Festival so the calendar for 2009 is filling up.

I will close by applauding all active members for making me as an "onlooker" extremely proud to be involved with A COVENTRY WAY ASSOCIATION."

4. Statement of Accounts

John Aylmer presented the accounts for the year. Copies of the accounts were available for inspection.

Ken Nicholas will be auditing the accounts shortly, but Ken and John A have delayed the audit to pressures of real work. Audited and signed copies will be given to the Chairman when available.

Funds are currently held roughly 50% each with Alliance & Leicester and Coventry Building society. This is because:

- Significant funds will be spent soon on the reprint of the 21 Circular Walks book,
- A few months ago the Alliance & Leicester seemed as though they could become a risk, and by now the interest they are paying has reduced dramatically

John A outlined in more detail how the smaller items of expenditure were broken down

John G thanked John A for the thorough job he has done in managing our finances.

5. Membership Fee for 2008

The Membership fee for 2008 will remain at £3 per household.

John G outlined the background to the current fees, and reminded all present about the increases number of honorary members agreed at the 2007 AGM. These arrangements also continue into 2009, with one new honorary member added due to excellent work at this year's Working Parties.

6. Committee, Officers, Overseers and other Volunteers for Specific Duties for 2009

ACWA Committee and Officers for 2009 were proposed and seconded. There being no further proposals from the meeting, they were declared elected.

The only recent change is that Ken Nicholas has taken over as Membership Secretary as from this meeting.

As shown on the current list of ACWA Officers, Committee Members, Other Volunteers and Overseers, there remains one post where a vacancy for a volunteer is needed to take over from previous incumbents, viz:

Press Officer (Vacancy – was Bill Hartnett till Oct-2007, and during 2008 has been shared between the Chairman and Vice Chairman)

Peter Page confirmed that he wishes to finish his term as Secretary by AGM 2009. A successor is required. Peter confirmed that he will continue his roles as Webmaster, Overseer and with Working Party activities.

Any readers of these notes, who would like to volunteer as Press Officer &/or Publicity Officer or as Secretary, please contact us.

The full current list is attached as Annex A.

7. Donations to Charities

At the committee meeting in October there was a lengthy discussion about making donations to Charity.

There had been an agreement to donate £50 to Myton Hospice at the February Committee meeting with action by John Green. This has not been done yet, but will happen after this meeting.

As for donations to other Charities all at the October meeting agreed that they should have a local connection if the Association was to make a donation, possibly linked to our core activity (local walking or running club). Specific suggestions included:

- Support for children unable to do the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme due to lack of funds.
- The Air Ambulance (we may need the service ourselves one day).
- Declare in advance any surplus from the Challenge to be given to a Charity (possibly changing each year).

After a lengthy discussion, John G proposed a vote on the suggestion that any surplus from the Challenge to be given to a Charity. Results of a show of hands were:

- 8 For
- 2 Against
- 8 Did not vote/Abstained

John G said that this matter will be progressed further at the next committee meeting in February 2009.

8. Date of ACW Challenge 2008 - Sunday 5th April 2009

Date of the Challenge 2009 will be 5th April. The event once again will be fronted by Bob Brandon, Bob Carey and Anne Wade, whose vast experience we are so fortunate to have. On line entries are already being received plus the usual paper entries.

The change of date has a number of advantages:

- Avoids clashing with the many other events held in September.
- The above leads to improving the chances of attracting more entries
- April is the school holiday period. Anne Wade will be contacting local schools to attract younger entrants.
- Whilst the weather and daylight hours are similar, the growth season of unwanted vegetation will not be fully underway.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 Next Working Party

This will be held on Wednesday 21st January 2008. See the Internet news or ring Bob Carey for time and place to meet and more details.

9.2 Next Overseers Meeting

Will be held in February 2009, exact date to be fixed.

9.3 Weil's Disease (Leptospirosis)

Cyril Bean referred to an article in the Autumn 2008 copy of Waymark magazine, spelling out the risks of Leptospirosis, and suggesting that waterproof gloves should be worn to reduce the risk. Peter Page pointed out that we had previously adopted

the advice given in the leaflet issued by Fife council, and suggested no change was needed. We will however discuss at the next Overseers meeting.

9.4 John & Thelma's hospitality

Cyril Bean proposed a vote of thanks to John & Thelma for their hospitality hosting all the Overseers and Committee meetings over recent years. All involved endorsed this.

9.5 Iris Bean

John G thanked Iris for once again organising refreshments for the AGM. All enthusiastically endorsed this.

9.6 Norman Paget

John G then thanked Norman Paget for organising our use of the hall, and patiently waiting as we ran late in closing the meeting!

The meeting closed at 9:50.

End of Minutes – Annex A follows

Note: The full list of Officers, Committee Members, Other Volunteers and Overseers at end 2008 is given below:

Officers

Chairman	John Green
Vice-Chairman	Bob Carey
Secretary	Peter Page
Treasurer	John Aylmer
Auditor	Ken Nicholas

President

President	Cyril Bean
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Committee

Chairman	John Green
Vice-Chairman	Bob Carey
Secretary	Peter Page
Treasurer	John Aylmer
Committee Member	Bob Brandon

Other Volunteers for specific duties

Membership Secretary	Ken Nicholas
Webmaster	Peter Page
Newsletter	Ken Nicholas
ACWA Challenge	Bob Brandon & Bob Carey
Press Officer	(Vacancy – was Bill Hartnett till Oct-2007)
Volunteer co-ordinators	John Green & Bob Carey
Geocaching	Keith Greenall & Cyril Bean
Book Sales	John Green

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 Eve
Walks 10,11 & 12	Frank Tonkinson & Doug Shelton
Walks 13, 14 & 15	Bob Carey & Alan Townsend
Walk 16	Ken Nicholas & Bob Brandon
Walks 17, 18	Dave Burrin & Bob Brandon
Walks 19, 20 & 21	Bob Watson & Stan Veasey
Roving Overseer	Peter Page (i.e. any walk as requested by chairmen or any other overseer)
A Coventry Way	Bob Brandon