

Dereham WaW Annual Public Meeting : 15 June 2017

PRESENT

from Dereham Walkers are Welcome: Tim Birt, Catherine Hawkins, Ken Hawkins, Sue Rothwell, Dorothy Sneesby, Martin Sneesby and Jean Stratford, plus Linda Goreham (Dereham Town Council)

members of the public: 4 people were present

Apologies were received from Kate Millbank (Breckland District Council and Dereham Town Council), William Richmond (Norfolk County Council), David Smith (Konect) and 4 Dereham Walkers are Welcome supporters

1	Welcome and introduction On behalf of Dereham Walkers are Welcome, Ken Hawkins welcomed all those present, and noted the apologies for absence from those who had sent them. He explained that this was the first annual meeting of the group, which had been established just a year ago. He introduced the current Committee members, all of whom were present.
2	Origins and history / Annual Report 2016 Copies of the Annual Report, which ran from June to December 2016 (to meet national Walkers are Welcome requirements) had been made available to all present. This report (also available on our website http://www.DerehamWaW.org.uk) explained the accreditation process followed in 2016, and outlined the activities we had undertaken. Ken summarised these briefly, enlarging on them by noting the further work we had done in the last 6 months. He particularly referred to <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the 'official' support we had received (especially from Dereham Town Council),• the work we had undertaken on path maintenance,• the distribution of our <i>Dereham Walks</i> pack (prepared before we came into being, but now taken over by us),• joint work (with Mid-Norfolk Railway, Konectbus, The Ramblers and The Conservation Volunteers among others),• the many public walks which had been arranged and plans to hold more in 2017 (28 August, 1 October, possibly more in October to coincide with Norfolk County Council's Cycling and Walking Festival), then 1 January 2018, and• a recent initiative with Cromer WaW to share ideas and offer support to the other two WaW towns in Norfolk - Aylsham and Swaffham. All of this had been and is reported on our website, which had been developed hugely by Tim Birt since our launch a year earlier. The Annual Report was accepted.
3	Annual Accounts 6 April 2016 - 5 April 2017 Copies of the Annual Accounts had been made available to all present. Dorothy Sneesby presented and explained them, noting that we had been given some £850 by the Dereham Society, who in turn had received it specifically for use relating to the Neatherd; we intended to ring fence it for this purpose, and were exploring options for this. This in turn meant we had an effective working balance of £160 at the end of the financial year (a position which had not changed substantially since then); Dorothy also noted that we had annual commitments of £100 (national Walkers are Welcome subscription) and £80 (public liability insurance), so needed to generate additional funding for everyday expenditure.

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	<p>We were hoping to get grant funding to reprint a further 3000 copies of an expanded <i>Dereham Walks</i> packs, to include 15 walks. This would cost about £2000. We were pleased to acknowledge a grant from Dereham Town Council for £750 and were waiting the outcome of an application to Tesco's <i>Bags of Help</i> fund.</p> <p>A question was asked about <i>Visit Dereham</i>, to which we had contributed £4 toward website costs. Ken said that this was a small group formed in 2016 by Dereham Antiquarian Society (Bishop Bonner's Cottage Museum), Dereham Walkers are Welcome, Dereham Windmill, Mid-Norfolk Railway and St Nicholas Church) to promote their own activities, but, more importantly, to raise the profile and value of Dereham to potential visitors (as well as its residents).</p> <p>The Annual Accounts were accepted.</p>
4	<p>Constitution</p> <p>Ken introduced the current Constitution, which had been prepared using a national WaW template, before we had been accredited and starting operating. During the year, we had found the need to revise the Constitution, and a draft of the proposed version was presented to all present. Ken noted that the changes were</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• defining the quorum for a Committee meeting to be four members (previously 50% of the number, or four, whichever was the greater),• adding a duty on the Committee to consider as a Committee member, any person offering themselves at the Annual Public Meeting, and• changing all references to an Annual General Meeting to an Annual Public Meeting, since we were not a membership organisation <p>These changes were discussed by those present, in particular relating to the third point above, after which the changes were agreed without dissent.</p>
5	<p>Committee</p> <p>Ken had earlier introduced and thanked the current Committee. He noted that Neil Cliff had represented U3A on the Committee, but had now stood down from his positions within U3A and Sue Rothwell was now representing U3A as well as being a member in her own right. Jean Stratford had resigned from the Committee and was thanked for her work, especially in preparing our two train and walk routes and in running, with Sue, the <i>Walking in Wonderland</i> event at Easter.</p> <p>Initially, Kate Millbank had attended to represent Dereham Town Council, and this had more recently been taken on by Linda Goreham. In order to avoid conflicts of interest, this representation does not involve full Committee membership.</p> <p>This left us with only 6 Committee members, and we were looking for new members, especially anyone who could set up social networking for us, and a qualified first aider to come on our walks.</p>
6	<p>Other business</p> <p>There being no other business, the meeting was closed, with thanks to all attending. It was followed by an entertaining illustrated talk by David Pelling on <i>Fauna & Avifauna Near and Far</i>, the evening ending with light refreshments.</p>