



Minutes of AGM: 11 November 2025

Agenda Item	Minutes
Present	Tom Allen, Jenny Barnes, Dawn Burt, Elinor Charleston, Jack Dipper, Eric Dudley, Terry Ellis, Chris Forsyth, Peter Gallagher, Colin Gibbens, Pearl Gibbens, Keith Grimes, Judy Haynes, Angie Jones, Nigel Jones, Grahame Lee, Tracy Ockley (Chair), Gareth Reynolds, Liz Tkocz, David Trease.
Guest Speaker	Kathy Hobson of Swindon Beekeepers Association gave a very interesting talk on the lives of honey bees, their importance in the food supply chain, how to keep and care for them and the honey production process, which provoked a number of questions.
Apologies for absence	Fiona Bedford, Elspeth Wollen.
Approval of Minutes	The minutes of the 2024 AGM were approved.
Matters Arising	1) David T reported that information on refreshment breaks was now included in the details of every walk on the programme. 2) He also reported that the facility for Ramble Worldwide (formerly Ramblers Holidays) to make a donation to our funds when a member took a holiday with them had been re-established. 3 x £30 donations had been made during the year; he understood that this money went into Area funds.
Treasurer's Report	Presenting the accounts, Gareth R highlighted that walk book sales had increased from the previous year and thanked Grahame L for his efforts in achieving that. Tracy O said she had recently sold 21 books. There were no questions. The accounts were approved by the members present.
Appointment of Independent Examiner	The meeting approved the appointment of Helen Frost for a further year.

Footpath Secretary & WE Officer's Report	Presenting his report, Peter G asked members to tell him about any problems they found on the path network while out walking. He also referred to the low rate of objections we made to applications for path diversions, which was not always realised by landowners; success in getting footpaths added to the definitive map in Highworth and Latton; the high number of planning applications which he was having to consider and the failure of planning officers to consider RoW issues in some of their decisions.
Membership Secretary's Report	David T noted that we had stemmed the decline in membership which had occurred in previous years, which he felt was a positive sign, and suggested possible reasons for this.
Programme Secretary's Report	David T again expressed concern about the shortage of walk leaders. He mentioned that Central Office required all leaders who had not recently trained or led a specified number of walks to undertake refresher training before the end of the calendar year. Peter G had received from Central Office a framed certificate of appreciation to thank Bill France for having led walks for almost 30 years prior to retiring as a leader earlier this year. He had hoped it could be presented to Bill at the meeting but Bill was not in attendance. Colin G suggested that it could be presented to Bill at the Christmas lunch in December and the meeting agreed.
Webmaster's Report	Keith G drew attention to a spike in website activity on one day in June, which was unusual, but no damage appeared to have occurred.
Footpath Working Party Report	Tom A said that regular meetings were held with Wiltshire Council's Countryside Access Officers and he also kept in contact with Swindon Borough Council's Rights of Way Manager.
Publicity Officer's Report	Dawn B said she was sorry she was having to give up her post for family reasons. She hoped a new publicity officer could take over and keep up regular posts to the Facebook page. She thanked Liz T and Jenny B for providing excellent photos.
Election of Officers/ Committee Members	The acting secretary had not received any nominations for the vacant posts and none were forthcoming at the meeting. The meeting agreed to re-elect the following officers en bloc: Group Chair – Tracy Ockley. Membership Secretary - David Trease. Programme Secretary – David Trease. Footpath Secretary - Peter Gallagher. Walking Environment Officer – Peter Gallagher. Working Party Co-Ordinator - Tom Allen. Webmaster - Keith Grimes. Treasurer - Gareth Reynolds.
Motions	There were none.

Any other business	Colin G reminded members that anyone wishing to attend the Christmas lunch needed to give him their money and menu choices by 22 November. Grahame L said that minutes of recent committee meetings and Area Committee meetings had not been posted on the website. Keith G undertook to remedy this. The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.
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