



**Swindon &
North East Wilts**

Minutes of Committee Meeting: 12 January 2026 via Zoom

Agenda	Minutes	Action
Present	Tom Allen, Peter Gallagher, Keith Grimes, Marilyn Kassam, Tracy Ockley (Chair), Gareth Reynolds, David Trease.	
Minutes of Previous Meeting	The minutes of the meeting held on 13 October 2025 were approved.	
Matters Arising	None.	
Chair's Report	Tracy thanked Marilyn for taking on the Publicity Officer role and commented on the success of the Christmas lunch. David thanked Colin G for organising it.	
Treasurer's Report	Presenting the figures for the first quarter, Gareth said there was nothing of concern and welcomed the new outlet for walk book sales in Highworth.	
FWEO Report	Peter believed the Inspector for the Gipsy Lane appeal was unlikely to consider the user evidence but the Planning Inspectorate had not replied to his enquiry about this. He had therefore had to ensure that it was all provided to the Planning Inspectorate just in case. The meeting agreed that Peter's comments on Swindon's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan should be submitted as	Peter
Footpath Working Party Report	Tom reported that Mick's attendance at a 2-day first aid course funded by Wiltshire Council had been very useful. As the weather appeared to be improving the working party would be resuming work on outstanding jobs. David offered his help. Tom sought help in keeping the Excel spreadsheet up to date.	
Membership Report	David said that membership numbers were steady. He was concerned that the Area Group was taking 10% of members who are not active in the geographical groups.	
Programme Report	David said that leaders who did not meet the new accreditation requirements (having either done the training modules or led the requisite number of walks in recent years) would no longer be able to lead walks from February. They had all received letters from Central Office to this effect. Keith said that, as one of those affected, he had also been told he could no longer access Walks Manager despite being a webmaster. He had queried this and was awaiting a response.	

Webmaster's Report	Keith said the website is running smoothly. There may be an upgrade later in the year but we were unlikely to notice any change.	
Publicity Officer's Report	Marilyn had taken over management of the Facebook page with help from Dawn B. She planned to start taking walk programmes to local libraries; she had been surprised to discover how many there were in Swindon. David said that he took programmes to the Central Library; it was not clear whether or how they distributed them from there. Marilyn would enquire. David also mentioned that another member was supplying programmes to Wootton Bassett library.	Marilyn
Any Other Business	David encouraged members to attend the Area AGM on 7 February. He was unable to transport members from Marlborough Road as he would be collecting the trustee from Chippenham station.	All
Date of Next Meeting	Monday 13 April. Provisional dates of subsequent meetings: Monday 15 June Monday 12 October Group AGM Tuesday 10 November	