**CLEOBURY MORTIMER FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION**

**32ND AGM**

**held at the Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club**

**Saturday 6th April 6.15pm**

**Minutes**

**Present**

Alan Kimber Mazella Witts-Hewinson Russell Knapper

Geoff Hainsworth Joy Wilkinson John Rhymer

Helen Rhymer Bob Westwood Deana Kimber

Chris Hargreaves Vernica Hargreaves Bob Franklin

Carol Franklin Jim Reynolds Tina Hobin

Ian Ludford Janet Ludford Paul Raymond

Anita Raymond Peter Blackburn Hazel Jennings

Paul Jennings Graham Simpson Val Simpson

Julian Clelford Jane Clelford (26)

1. Geoff welcomed all to the meeting.

**Apologies**

Ann and Steve Parker Robin Gutteridge Maria and Richard Cook

Mark Baldwin Stuart Benson Rob Woods

Tim and Gill Elcock Pauline and Pete Jackson

Nicola Grant Judi Major

Gerrard McCullagh Judy and John Sant

**Approval of last year’s 31st AGM Minutes**

Read and approved (Mazella proposed, Alan Seconded)

**Matters Arising**

Dealt with and approved (Russell proposed, Mazella seconded)

1. ***AGM items:***
2. *Election of Officers: - There were no other nominations*

**If you are interested in taking on roles or interested in volunteering/helping in any way, please contact us.**

*All below were re-elected*

* Chairman: Geoff Hainsworth
* Secretary: Joy Wilkinson
* Treasurer: Russell Knapper
* Footpath Officer: Susan Sharpe: - ***RESIGNING***
* Website manager: Graham Simpson

*All below have agreed to continue*

* *Current Committee Members*
* Walking for Health Coordinator, Country Walks programme: Alan Kimber
* Membership: Mazella Witts – Hewinson
* Leaflets: IanLudford
* Liaison: Pete Blackburn

1. *Current volunteer roles*

* Website Google Calendar: Chris Hargreaves
* Country Walks Programme: Alan Kimber
* Social Walks Programme: Paul Jennings
* Cleobury Clarion: Veronica Hargreaves
* Facebook: Judy Sant
* Country Walks Poster: Rosemary Thompson
* Footpath work parties/clearance volunteers: as per report attached to e mail

1. *Reports (All read, accepted, proposed and seconded)*

Previous AGM minutes

Treasurer’s finance report

Footpath maintenance reports – **discussion regarding Susan’s resignation \***

Walking for health - **walk leaders needed**

Social Walks report and programme – **walk leaders needed**

Country Walks Report and programme – **walk leaders needed**

1. *Member’s responsibilities (current holder in brackets):*

* *Tools & Equipment (GH, AK)*
* *P3 Work Party Coordinator (SS)* ***RESIGNING. Discussion about this position took place\****
* *Country Walks Programme. (AK).*
* *Social Walks Programme (PJ, HJ)*
* *Country Walks Poster: Rosemary Thompson*
* *Path Maintenance Co-ordinator/Guardian Scheme. (SS)* ***RESIGNING. Discussion about this position took place\****
* *Website Co-ordinator. (GS).*
* *WfH Co-ordinator (AK, DK)*
* *Leaflets: (JW, IL)*

The committee were asked to add Deana to ‘Walking for Health’ responsibilities as she carries out the admin work.

1. *Matters Arising*
   1. Subscriptions
   2. Need of volunteers, members to help
   3. Walk Leaflets
   4. Honorary Memberships
2. *AOB*

Subscriptions are to remain at £5 per year per adult.

Susan’s resignation was discussed and how the group will manage her workload, moving forward.

Footpath clearance and path maintenance are the priorities to keep the network clear enabling walkers to continue enjoying the footpaths. Susan will continue to clear the Bayton area, walks, 2, 5, 7, 22 providing she is in the area.

Mazella and Russell will work together to continue the ‘Footpath Guardians’ register and to log work completed.

We have 79 CMFA members however only 11 paths have guardians at present. The committee therefore asked for more members to volunteer if possible, to help clear paths. We need as many volunteers a possible.

It also helps to take out secateurs and cut as you walk and to please inform CMFA if problems are encountered when out walking. Clearance is only done once, possibly twice in a year and may only be part of a walk.

Mazella and Russell will e mail all members when help and support is needed, rather than only to named volunteers. It will then give everyone the opportunity to offer their services.

Notification of the need for help for work parties will also be sent out to all members. Any help will be gratefully received. Days will vary for work parties. Members involved with work parties are covered by CMFA insurance.

Pete Blackburn has offered the use of his car to transport tools/resources and Joy has offered to use her car to tow a trailer if we can locate one.

It was agreed to arrange a meeting with Brian Hickson who is our contact for Shropshire Council and to attempt to liaise closely with Shropshire to try to get work done by them and to ask for their input as far as possible.

Jim Reynolds offered to publicise for volunteers through the Clarion and added that we can cover any aspect of CMFA through the Clarion at any time. He is very happy to work with us and was thanked for his great offer. We can also promote the ‘Snip and Slash’ campaign.

Paul said that there may be people who have no interest in walking, may offer to help clear footpaths or help with work parties.

There were also suggestions to ask:

Pioneer Centre

Hub

South Shropshire Youth Forum

*Leaflets*

* The leaflets need updating and to do this, each walk will need to be walked and checked.
* Walkers are Welcome logo needs to be removed.
* Joy and Geoff had had a positive meeting with Mike Ashton from MA creative who gave us details of costs.
* Leaflets are for sale locally and Ian explained that some have already sold from Londis.
* Geoff said the King’s Arms are delighted to have them on sale.
* Jim has offered to advertise the sale of walk leaflets and Veronica asked for the locations where they are on sale in order to send the information for the Clarion.
* Joy: the print shop in Cleobury Mortimer is willing to print leaflets at 20 pence per sheet. It would be better to try to get them updated before printing.
* Graham suggested sourcing funding for printing. He added that the Co-op give funding (£200 - £500) for projects.
* Paul admitted that Evesham received funding from councillors for Community Projects (which the leaflets are).
* Geoff stated that Shirehall Shropshire Council is bankrupt and that he was unaware of councillors receiving pots of money for projects.
* John Rhymer continued that he thought district councillors received £1000 but it was reduced to £500 and that various pots of money are available.
* Pete said that Gwilym Butler had raised money and had asked for donations from the council. He suggested that we find where a walk may need something, to raise money and ask for funding to match the money raised.
* Neen Sollers had given money for a kissing gate.

*Simon Evans Way*

The Simon Evans Way was discussed because of its poor condition in parts and we need to do work on it. The decision was made to make August’s social walk, ‘The Simon Evans Way’. Work will be done as we walk where possible. Larger jobs that need doing will be logged.

*Honorary Membership*

It was agreed to offer Susan Sharpe an honorary membership.

*AOB*

Nothing was raised.

Geoff thanked everyone for joining us at the AGM and added that it was great to see so many members attending.

**CMFA Chairman’s Report April 2024**

**Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you for coming.**

**I should like to thank the hardy annuals, Alan, Russell, Mazella, Graham, Paul and Hazel.**

**Mazella stepped down as secretary and Joy has stepped back into the role (Mazella is still the membership secretary). I am delighted to say that we have two new committee members Ian and Pete.**

**Walking for Health goes from strength to strength, thank you all involved.**

**The Country Walks are ever popular, and Paul & Hazel do a wonderful job with the Social Walks although more walk leaders are always needed.**

**Special thanks to Joy for taking over the arrangements for tonight’s meal.**

**Sad news last year was the loss of Paul French one of the founder members of the CMFA.**

**I did not work with him at the CMFA, but we did work together on the Town Council. He was our liaison with the Schools and the Primary school. Pupils loved him and had a nickname for him, “Gandalf.” All those who knew him will understand.**

**As you are all aware it is with sadness that we have learned Susan Sharp has resigned from the CMFA.**

**It is fair to say Susan has invested a significant amount of her life into the footpath association, to such an extent that it is impossible to do justice to her energy, personal resolve, and unwavering commitment.**

**It is testament to Susan’s ongoing commitment to the association that she is continuing to support us until the end of April. Whilst it is impossible to imagine finding anyone who could fill Susan’s shoes, we are grateful for her assistance in helping the association understand the many tasks she has undertaken, to enable this work to continue. It will be necessary to share out her many tasks amongst several volunteers.**

**So, this leaves me on behalf of the committee to take this opportunity to publicly thank Susan for her admirable service to the CMFA and to wish her every success in the future.**

**Again, I would like to finish with a huge vote of thanks to all the active members who regularly support our activities and make the CMFA what it is, thank you everyone.**

**It would be brilliant if we could see more members becoming active!**

**Geoff Hainsworth**