

# CLEOBURY MORTIMER FOOTPATH ASSOCIATION

## 33rd AGM

held at the Cleobury Mortimer Golf Club

Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025 6.00 pm.

### MINUTES

#### 1. Welcome from Chairperson

Geoff welcomed everyone and commented on such a good turnout of members attending the AGM.

#### 2. People present

Alan Kimber	Mazella Witts-Hewinson	Russell Knapper
Geoff Hainsworth	Joy Wilkinson	Eddie Barnett
David Walker	Bob Westwood	Deana Kimber
Liz Walker	Emma Barnett	Bob Franklin
Carol Franklin	Jim Reynolds	Nicola Grant
Ian Ludford	Janet Ludford	Paul Raymond
Anita Raymond	Hazel Jennings	Peter Blackburn
Paul Jennings	Annette Griffiths	Graham Simpson
Julian Cleford	Jane Cleford	David Griffiths
Judy Sant	John Sant	Anne Parker
Steve Parker	Gerrard McCullagh	Veronica Hargreaves
		Una Widdett

#### 3. Apologies

Maria and Richard Cook	Ben & Rose Moule	Robin Gutteridge
Judi Major	Diane Waddington	Helen & John Rhymer
Charlotte & Adrian Meredith	Rob Woods	Richard Allman
Peter Dunkley	Guy & Maggie James	Anne Marie, Julian Berger

#### Approval of last year's 32nd AGM Minutes (Attached to Agenda in e mail)

As read and approved. (Mazella proposed, Geoff seconded)

#### 4. Election of Officers

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

*All below were re-elected.*

- Chairperson: Geoff Hainsworth
- Secretary: Joy Wilkinson
- Treasurer: Russell Knapper
- Footpath Officer: **Remains vacant**
- Website manager: Graham Simpson

*All below have agreed to continue although Alan Kimber has asked for someone willing to take over the Country Walks programme.*

### *Current Committee Members*

- Walking for Health Coordinator: Alan, Deana Kimber
- P3 Work Party Coordinator: **(Duty of Footpath Officer)** Alan Kimber
- Country Walks programme: Alan Kimber
- Membership: Mazella Witts – Hewinson
- Footpath Guardian/Clearance Coordinator: Mazella Witts-Hewinson, Russell Knapper
- Leaflets: Ian Ludford, Joy Wilkinson
- Liaison: Pete Blackburn

Ben Moule was voted on to the committee, proposed by Alan Kimber and seconded by Ian Ludford. Ben is a retired farmer who joins our work parties and has offered and gives his help regularly. He can give a farmer's viewpoint on proposed actions/work.

### **5. Current volunteer roles**

- Website Google Calendar: Graham Simpson
- Country Walks Programme: Alan Kimber
- Social Walks Programme: Paul Jennings
- Cleobury Clarion: Joy Wilkinson
- Facebook: Judy Sant
- Country Walks Poster: Rosemary Thompson
- Footpath work parties/clearance volunteers: Alan, Mazella and Russell

### **6. Reports (attached with e mailed agenda. All presented as read, accepted, proposed, and seconded)**

Previous AGM minutes

Treasurer's finance report

Membership Report

Footpath Maintenance Reports

Walking for health

Social Walks report and programme.

Country Walks Report and programme.

Facebook Report

Chairman's Speech

Website report (given by Graham at AGM)

Nomination Form

Website Report: Graham explained that the Website is fairly static. It is well used with people coming through direct or through sites such as Shropshire Great Outdoors. Graham asked for any recent photos to enable him to update photos on the website.

Financial Report: Russell explained to members about the difficulties with Zurich insurance being inappropriate and that he is looking for an alternative suitable source and also, he is looking at changing banks because of the charges by Lloyds.

It was mentioned that it may be worth becoming affiliated with the Ramblers, costing £77 per year. This would give us 40% off Howden's insurance and other benefits. This will need to be investigated.

### **7. Member's responsibilities (current holder in brackets):**

- *Tools & Equipment (GH, AK)*
- *P3 Work Party Coordinator (AK temporarily covering)*

- *Country Walks Programme. (AK. Would like a replacement volunteer as he has other commitments on Sundays. It means finding volunteers to lead walks on the first Sunday of each month. Some leaders lead two walks. The walks are usually one of CMFA leaflet walks although leaders can choose their own walk, lasting about two hours).*
- *Social Walks Programme (PJ, HJ)*
- *Country Walks Poster: Rosemary Thompson*
- *Path Maintenance Co-ordinator/Guardian Scheme. (MWH, RK)*
- *Website Co-ordinator. (GS).*
- *WfH Co-ordinator (AK, DK)*
- *Leaflets: (JW, IL)*
- *Facebook: (JS)*

CMFA are asking for volunteers to take on or help support any of the roles but especially those highlighted. The role of the Footpath Officer has been split into smaller responsibilities. This is working; however, several roles have been taken on by one person and therefore it would be great to have other volunteers/active members to help lessen the load. Please contact one of the committee members if you feel you could help us.

## **AGM items:**

### **8. Matters Arising**

- **Mawley Hall Footpaths**  
Joy explained the issue of the Mawley Hall footpaths since there are many queries about the routes being closed.

*Below is part of the response from Stephen Rodenhurst  
Rights of Way - Legal Orders and Enforcement Officer*

*The path from Lower Forge up to the Mawley Hall driveway*

This bridleway has been closed due to drainage works that are being carried out to repair and replace an antiquated system of drainage to the north of the hall. The works had to undergo planning approval from Shropshire Council and the site plan, details of what is being replaced, installation specifications etc can be found under planning application 24/02649/FUL on the Shropshire Council website. Planning permission was granted in December 2024 and the route has been temporarily closed until July 2026 for the works to be completed.

*The path from Bayton Lane, through the stables, past the weir*

These public rights of way were closed due to work being carried out on the collapsed weir following recent storms. They are temporarily closed until June 2025 and this is to allow for works alongside the weir such as a flood gate and a safety wall to be completed. The Rights of Way Maintenance Manager visited the site in February and he reported that the repair to the weir and associated works, which was a substantial undertaking in both resources and time, was nearing completion.

Peter Blackburn reported that a positive and constructive relationship was being fostered between David Wilkinson, Head of security and the footpath association. An example of this was the agreement to the route past the chicken farm being made walkable again after the cattle and farm vehicles made it extremely rutted and uneven. We hope this will soon be completed.

- **Footpath 55**

This is the footpath leading from Lion Lane SO67457566 (by Mortimer Bungalow, down the road from Stable Mews). The path runs south-westerly uphill to a kissing gate, then leads uphill to the allotments. The landowner would like to close this path to create a route running alongside the hedge to the gate at Eagle Lane. The path would then turn steeply uphill to the kissing gate between the fields, then leading upwards to the allotments.

The reasons for the diversion were anti-social behaviour / littering in the field, and to protect livestock. Locals who walk the route have not seen antisocial behaviour or notable littering. A small number of sheep occasionally graze there. There may other reasons for the footpath closure request. There have been objections to this change. It is a well-used route, especially for those with limited mobility. The change would negatively impact these walkers.

- Subscriptions

Subscriptions are to remain at £5 per year per adult, under 18s free.

## **9. A.O.B**

- Graham brought up that Susan regularly checked planning applications and wondered if there was a way they could be sent to us. Joy checks planning applications however will investigate (e mailed Dorothy McBride). It was also mentioned that the Ramblers receive the information and being members would lead to us maybe receiving planning applications that may impact the footpath network. Mazella will also investigate.
- Pete Blackburn asked if we could officially recognise the valuable input from Brian Hickson from Shropshire Council who has been a great support to CMFA. He put in the new steps at Eagle Lane, the new bridge at the Caravan Park and is always on hand to transport equipment and furniture and to help install new footpath furniture. His work is invaluable to CMFA.
- Shona Butter, who was instrumental in the moving of the Newhouse footpath, has apparently finished from Shropshire Council. Joy to confirm if this is true and to find out the name of her successor.

## Closing

Geoff confirmed that he would love to see more help and ideas from members however he continued to thank everyone for attending the meeting, for the great turnout and for the valuable input from members.

Meeting closed 6.50 p.m.