



SOUTH WEST COAST PATH ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 3rd Annual General Meeting held at The Livermead House Hotel, Torquay 8th June 2018, 2.20pm

1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN

Chairman of the South West Coast Path Association, Ken Carter (KC) welcomed everyone to the meeting which was the 45th for the Association and thanked those 104 members and 1 non-member, who had been able to attend. The furthest member came from Wolverhampton. KC introduced the staff to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Margi Hawkins, Kingsbridge
Mark Abbott, Northwich
Mary Rogers, Honiton
Colin Ulph, Shoreham By Sea
John Draper, Penryn
Robin & Janet Blackmore, Colchester
Sue Lewis, Wadebridge
Terry & Rene Sweeney, Lyme Regis
Dawn Laver, Plymouth
Rosemary Bramah, Bridport
James & Linda Skinner, Gloucester
Carl & Sheila Litsinger, USA
Catharine Seidel, Plymouth
Peter Scupholme, Wareham
Paul & Mary Rabbeth, Helston
Lizzie Wallis, Ermington
Angela Schwartz, USA
Wendy & Tony Hayward, Wokingham

3. MINUTES OF THE 2017 AGM

Accepting the 2017 AGM minutes was proposed by Bob Smith, seconded by Graham Keen and approved unanimously.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES

[4.1] minute 5.a.5: KC reported that the Board or Trustees had adopted the new business plan in November 2017 and he thanked all involved for their help, especially the previous Director, Esther Pearson,

for putting the plan together. It had enabled the Board to prepare for her replacement and establish the Business Plan in good time before she left.

[4.2] minute 7.1: The 2018 Guide Book had been reviewed and some small changes made. It was now being produced in a more environmentally friendly manner.

[4.3] minute 7.2: Chris Hatton's list of accommodation providers had been reviewed and the Association's aim was to target accommodation gaps along the Path and offer accommodation listings. There is an ongoing review of benefits for Business Members in these more remote areas.

[4.4] minute 7.3: Volunteer meetings were held in 2017 arranged by Mark Owen (National Trail Officer). As these proved successful further meeting had been organised again in 2018.

5. ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS

5a Annual Report

[5a.1] KC explained that 2017 had been a year of transition. Changes included the new business plan for 2018 – 2022; restructuring staff and bringing in new staff. Trustees had looked at challenges faced by the Charity and how to overcome them. Trustees had chosen to grow the staff team in order to meet challenges to fund the Path and grow the Association. The new business plan was adopted by Trustees in November 2017.

[5a.2] The Association had supported 29 projects valued at £92k in 2017, with the Charity's contribution being £51k. The Charity had further committed funds to 24 more projects, totalling £68k in value.

[5a.3] In 2017 The Trail Partnership Chairman, Alistair Handyside, had stood down and KC was asked to chair the group. It had been proposed to scale-down the size of the Partnership but keep stake-holders like Tourism Alliance involved.

[5a.4] KC explained the position with national funding for National Trails. He said that all the Trails had been lobbying Government for multi-year funding commitments to avoid the late announcements of funding seen in the past two years. The National Trails had agreed to establish a formal Alliance to act as a Champion to liaise with Natural England and funding for this had been found. KC explained that with the completion of the England Coast Path the £1.6 million annual budget for National Trails would be stretched too thin and he hoped for constructive changes in 2018. There was also a need to raise the profile of National Trails as there was a fear their importance as could be undermined with changes in funding following Brexit. Work would continue with the other Trails for constructive changes through 2018.

[5a.5] The Charity had received further funding from the Discover England Fund to promote the Path to Overseas visitors, targeting Germany & Holland. KC reported that the Charity felt that there were more overseas visitors on the Path in 2017.

[5a.6] KC paid tribute to the what had been achieved with the 109 Charity volunteers and was grateful for all who give their time to Association. Mark Owen had ran workshops with Path Rangers and local authority staff and our volunteers in order for everyone to work together more collaboratively.

[5a.7] KC reported the work undertaken in the last quarter of 2017 to replace the former Director, Esther Pearson. He said the Charity had been through a substantial recruitment process. Esther had left in November 2017 and Julian Gray (JG) had started in January, enabling a period of handover.

[5a.8] The Challenge event in 2017 had raised the profile of the Association as well as funds for the Path. He also highlighted increased funds from legacies and donations. KC reported to AGM £148k from legacies and £60k from donations in 2017. He felt that more people were giving as a result of the Challenge.

[5a.9] Membership had increased to 7000 by end of 2017, whereas it was 6,500 at year-end 2016. Business Membership stood at just under 500. KC concluded by emphasising again that the Association had achieved a significant amount despite considerable changes.

[5a.10] KC asked the meeting if there were any questions. There were none.

5b Annual Accounts

KC introduced Jess Slack (JS) to present the accounts. He thanked her for her help and her support with the Charity finances following the resignation of the Treasurer, George Coles, in November 2017. KC thanked George for his time as Treasurer.

[5b.1] Under Overview of Income & Expenditure comparisons JS noted that cash and net assets were looking positive and were in a healthy position. General Funds of £136k was a good position to be in.

[5b.2] Donations and legacies had started to increase in 2017 and had become a bigger proportion of the Charity's income in 2017.

[5b.3] JS explained how the different categories of funds had been agreed by the Trustees. She reported that Trustees had decided to keep 6 months reserves.

JS asked for any questions.

[5b.4] Nick Freeman (Newbury) enquired about the cost of producing the Annual Guide. JG explained that the Charity had used a new printer who offered lower costs and therefore savings. He emphasised that the Association was always looking at ways to reduce costs as well as its environmental impact.

[5b.5] In response to a question, JG explained that the Youth Project was funded through legacies and specific Trusts. This was a pilot project to encourage young people out onto the Path by providing activities on the trail. It was being promoted through schools and groups. A bid was being made to Health and Wellbeing for Devon to develop the project further.

5c Approval of the Annual Report and Accounts

Acceptance was proposed by Ann Cameron, seconded by Keith Wainwright and approved unanimously.

6. ELECTION OF TRUSTEES

[6.1] KC passed meeting to Andrew Lack to hold the election for Chairman. Ken Carter was proposed by Robin Ladkin and seconded by Malcolm Elliot. KC was elected unanimously. Andrew Lack then asked KC to resume as Chairman.

[6.2] KC explained that the CIO constitution did not recognise specific Officer positions, instead members elected Trustees. The Officers were then appointed by agreement among the Trustees. KC explained that those Trustees willing to be considered for Officer roles were listed in their AGM papers.

[6.3] KC asked the AGM for permission to elect the remaining Trustees en-bloc. There were no objections.

[6.4] The nominations for Trustees were:

Peter Scupholme was proposed by Dr David Pope and seconded by Brian Panton. PS had agreed to serve another twelve months as vice-chairman.

Andrew Lack was proposed by Lizzie Wallis and seconded by Margaret Bonner. AL had agreed to serve another twelve month as Honorary Secretary.

Steve Church was proposed by Mrs Merrilyn and seconded by Beverly Clemo.

Keith Wainwright was proposed by Aidan Winder and seconded by Gary Holpin.

Martin Davis was proposed by John Harker and seconded by Jenny Wilson.

Graham Keene was proposed by Margaret Bonner and seconded by Richard Elloway

Philip Spencer was proposed by George Coles and seconded by Martin Macro.

Bob Mark was proposed by Chris Lucas and seconded by Jan Corber.

These Trustees were elected unanimously.

[6.5] KC explained that the Charity currently had no Trustee acting as Treasurer and the current Trustees were not qualified accountants. Trustees felt it was considered important that whoever held this position should have a financial background. A qualified member had come forward and shown interest and was willing to become a Trustee but unfortunately this couldn't be arranged in time for the formal nominations.

7. **AOB**

[7.1] A member regretted the loss of the "630" title in the new member magazine. JG responded and the meeting indicated it did not share the member's concern.

[7.2] The Charity had not yet decided where next AGM would be held and suggested it might be in West Cornwall. The most likely date was 7th June 2019.

[7.3] AL asked for a formal recording of thanks to KC for all his hard work and support to the Charity in 2017.

AGM closed 3.20pm