

Sheffield Visually Impaired Walking Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 4th July 2013 at SRSB, Mappin Street, Sheffield

1. Chairman

Christine welcomed everyone and said what a pleasure it was to see everyone and in particular those who we haven't seen regularly including Peter and Brenda and Barbara. Christine also thanked our chef Rob and his staff for their excellent food and service, a really wonderful meal. Christine went on to thank Hilary and Steve for all their help organising the drinks and to Sue and Norman for the raffle.

2. Apologies

Bob Priestley and Don Tales.

3. Minutes of the last AGM held on 12 July 2012

These were circulated with the newsletter last year. Christine reiterated the key points regarding the Constitution that we increase the maximum of officers on the Committee from 7 to 9, the majority of officers to be made up of visually impaired members, i.e. 5 must be VIPs. The minutes were accepted as a true record.

4. Matters Arising

No matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

Christine said she believed we had had another good year walking regularly once per month on Wednesday, Sunday and Thursday and sometimes on Tuesday. We

were very grateful for the support of a range of people, the Ramblers, National Trust, and the Peak Park Rangers and our own guide members. She paid special tribute to John Bater for organising the walks tirelessly and with such dedication, he deserved all the applause we can give him.

The Trip to Saltaire unfortunately has had to be postponed as Philip Timms from the Hearing Group is ill as is his wife. We all wished them both well and will pick this up later in the year. Last year's holiday to Hawes was successful and we are looking forward to this year's holiday to Grassington. Hilary made some points. We would leave at 9.30 am. The walks would be led by Ted on Tuesday, Colin on Wednesday and Rachel on Thursday. Hilary suggested that we have an away day in Skipton on Friday where our own guides could lead us on a canal walk and we could have a meal of fish and chips there. She also mentioned that we could eat at the Black Bull on Monday and perhaps try the Fountain another time but we would see how we feel when we get up there.

Christine went on to thank Jack and Ann particularly for organising the stone walling and Betsy for the motor cycling. She also thanked Eric for raising £265.00 for our funds on his Coast to Coast tandem bike ride with his son Fraser - a really good effort. We are all impressed. We are also impressed with Ann's half marathon she raised £255.00, many thanks Ann - we are very grateful. Christine has been thinking about getting a shorter easier walk once a month on a Tuesday as we are getting older and some of us would welcome this but we need to have enough guides. Christine will put something in the next newsletter. Christine gave a special tribute to Sue

Pearson our Treasurer for being Treasurer for the past 5 years. On our behalf Christine thanked Sue for her dedicated service, we are very grateful, thank you Sue.

Finally Christine gave thanks to the guides as none of this would be possible without them.

6. Treasurer's Report A copy of the Treasurer's Report is available if anyone wants a copy. The Treasurer's analysis was read out to members. The report was accepted as a true record by members.

7. Election of Officers

Stan Wainwright was elected as the new Treasurer The posts of Chair (Christine Hewitt), Vice Chair (Eric Andrews), Walks Co-ordinator (John Bater), Social Secretary (Hilary Myers), Membership Secretary (Brian Hirst), Newsletter Editor (Gail Fagin) and the Minute Secretary (Pauline Bullivant) to remain as last year as no other nominations were made for any of the posts. David Cadet was elected on to the Committee.

Chair: Christine Hewitt

Vice Chair: Eric Andrews

Walks Planner and Co-ordinator: John Bater

Membership Secretary: Brian Hirst

Treasurer: Stan Wainwright

Social Secretary: Hilary Myers

Minutes Secretary: Pauline Bullivant

Newsletter Editor: Gail Fagan

Other Committee Members: David Cadet

8. Any other business

Jack Burling telephoned Hilary to say he can't go on the holiday to Grassington due to ill health but wished to be remembered to all and hopes to get to see you all again.

Christine closed the meeting with a big thank you to everyone.