

Minutes of SVIWG AGM

held on 24th June, 2026 at SRSB, Mappin St.

1. **Welcome:** The Chair, Sue Hill, opened the meeting at 6.30pm by welcoming everyone, both old and new members.

2. **Attendance:**

Committee:

- Sue Hill – Present
- Martin Wing – Absent
- Andrew Abbey – Present
- Judy Gathercole - Present
- Gail Fagan – Present
- David Guile – Present
- Eileen Ingham – Present
- Hilary Myers – Present
- Darren Johnson – Present
- Judith Morton – Absent
- Margaret Patrick – Resigned

Additional apologies were received from:

- Linda Tait
- Carol Adams
- Shaun Syron
- Angela Elliott
- Jacqui Bradley
- Sandra Brumby
- Katharine Ryan Murray
- Judith Morton
- Gill Guest
- Melanie Messer

3. **Minutes of last year's meeting:** were agreed and adopted as a true record.
4. **Chair's summary:** Sue gave a brief resume of the past year to the group and looked forward to the rest of this year:

Calendar

- 4 walks per month – cancelled a couple due to inclement weather.
- Newstead Abbey in July – Sandra led a great walk and the group enjoyed refreshments in the Abbey café.
- Ripon in September – smaller group than previous. Enjoyed by all. Three walks were led by members of the local U3A group. Visited Ryedale Folk Museum on the day off.

- Training day in November – 10 (or thereabouts) in attendance. Alison Anthony from the Council led the training.
- Christmas dinner in December – everyone enjoyed it.

Talking News Federation

Members have been on the radio with Talking News; this was organised by Darren.

Passed away

Stan Wainwright (former treasurer), Mel Aughton, Marcia Andrews, Eric Andrews (former Chair) and Derek Taylor

New Members

Michelle Blackburn, Gill Guest, Tony Robinson and Maryline Tergella

Requests

- Please book onto walks on time and give plenty of notice of cancellations – it really helps if you can avoid last minute cancellation.
- Keep the photos coming in for the Facebook page and the website, as that is how we maintain interest.
- James who does the website is a volunteer, he redesigned the website and updates it every month, he is very efficient. He has been doing it for approx. 3 years now and we'd like to formally thank him for his efforts.
- Coach ramble – if you have not put your name down already, let Eileen know as she is organising it and collecting the money.

Thank you

Sue thanked the following:

- Committee for the work they had done and new committee members for taking jobs on.
- Thanks to the walk leaders – 48 walks have been planned and led.
- The Guides for coming, sometimes at short notice.
- The VIPs.

5. Treasurer's report: Andy Abbey provided an update on the main points of the accounts.

1. The cash in the bank, end of March: £15,878 across 3 accounts. HSBC £6,912, Skipton Building Society £966, and new account in Hampshire Trust Bank £8,000. Difference from the previous accounts is that we have moved £8k from the Skipton Building Society to Hampshire Trust because of better rates of interest, 4% instead of 2.05%. We can't access the money in the Hampshire Trust for 12 months. This is not of any concern because we still have plenty of money in the HSBC and Skipton, enough for the next 3 years without touching the £8k in Hampshire Trust.
2. This last year we operated with a deficit of £2553, so we spent more than we brought in. The previous year surplus of £7,110 included donations from Sheffield City Trust which have now expired (they were in place for 4 years).
3. Spending plans for the new year:

- a. there is no holiday so this will reduce expenditure. We more than covered the costs of the holiday, some of the costs of which appeared in the previous financial year due to early deposits.
 - b. SRSB payment for minibus has changed from £250 to £450 which is fair – they are not making any money from us. To provide assurance, we conducted a costing exercise for us to use the mini bus and driver to get us to Fairholmes and back.
 - c. We rejoined The Ramblers Association at a cost of £81. At the last committee meeting it was decided that this was worthwhile as it gives us kudos and helps us to support the Ramblers Association who represent walkers at a governmental level.
 - d. Insurance costs this year of £636 – two lots of insurance in this year's accounts as none paid in the previous year, we have the insurance that we require.
4. In summary – we are in a healthy position. We wanted to assure those in attendance that there are always good discussions as a committee about what we spend our money on.

Tim raised a question – what can we do to increase funds? Andy said we don't need to raise funds but agreed it would be good when thinking about the future. We will look at new potential streams of funding in the next financial year. Members were asked to share any ideas they have with the committee via Sue.

Sue thanked Andy for his hard work and he received a round of applause from the group.

6. Proposal to amend point 5a of the constitution to increase the maximum number of full members from 8 to 9

This is just to give us an odd number in case of a split decision. Andy proposed and Darren seconded. Voted for and agreed.

7. Election of the Committee

The following committee was proposed:

Chair: Sue Hill

Vice Chair: Martin Wing

Treasurer: Andrew Abbey

Secretary: Michelle Blackburn

Newsletter Editor: Gail Fagan

Health and Safety Officer: David Guile

Walks Coordinator: Maryline Tergella

Facebook page editor: Judith Morton

Hilary Myers: Committee member

Co-opted members: Judy Gathercole, Eileen Ingham, Darren Johnson

All committee nominations agreed through a vote.

8. AOB:

Hilary offered OS maps – Hilary brought along some original OS maps and offered them to the group if anyone wanted them.

Tim asked about recruitment – how are we spreading the message to younger people, who don't understand about this type of group and what we have on offer. Sue confirmed that we use Voluntary Action Sheffield to recruit volunteers. Michelle mentioned that research from Sheffield Theatres found young people were on TikTok and Facebook and we needed to use this route for young people – the floor was asked if anyone is interested in doing this. There were no volunteers. Michelle shared details of how to communicate volunteering opportunities with students at Sheffield Hallam University, and the University of Sheffield with Sue. Sue will approach these organisations about recruiting volunteers. A follow up question asked about the recruitment of VIPs. Hilary said the best way is word of mouth.

Nigel asked about mobile phones and walkie talkies – Sue confirmed that in the past she has offered to bring radios and the leaders have usually declined saying they are not needed. Sue confirmed that several pairs are available but there are challenges in transferring them between the different walk leaders. Darren said they are important as we do not want to lose people at the back and the leaders at the front don't always know where the back is. Tim observed that sometimes walk leaders forget they are leading people. This discussion led to a wider discussion on health and safety which is captured below.

Health and Safety - David Guile said we have implemented the new Health and Safety documentation – 38 members have confirmed with Sue that they have read it. This is likely to be most of the active walkers. Could anyone who has not yet read the document please read it and confirm with Sue that they have done so. David read out the Health and Safety Statement of Intent to all attendees. David asked, if we find some of the health and safety features in the new policy document are not working, then to let him know.

Question asked from the floor, who is responsible for carrying the first aid kit? There followed a debate which included an observation from the floor is that we should all have our own. David explained the difference between the First Aid at Work Act and what we need as we are not an employer and are therefore not required to be compliant with the Act. For example, we don't need a health and safety document as the full regulations don't apply. David read out the first aid information from the policy document to the group. It was agreed that it is sensible to have two people nominated as responsible should there be a health emergency on a walk. It was also suggested that the walk leader should carry a mobile power pack as the walkie-talkies are not sufficient to contact the emergency services. Ideally a first aid kit and a survival bag are available (but again should we all be carrying our own was observed). David confirmed that the planning for a walk amounts to a risk assessment, the newsletter offers a briefing on the risks and then the walker decides if they are happy with the risks identified. Any health and safety questions that remain should be sent in an email to Sue and David Guile.

Tuesday walk thank you - David Cadet wanted to thank everyone who has been doing the Tuesday walk for the last 14 years. He is now only doing 2 a year and has passed the other walks on to other people. David Cadet observed that 30 people were on the last Tuesday walk which is many more than on the first walk, which mostly comprised of the committee at the time!

Holiday - Kate asked why was there not a holiday this year. Sue explained it didn't run this year because there was a lack of interest. It was in the newsletter twice and Sue only had 6 responses, 4 by the deadline and two afterwards. It was mentioned that it may be cost of living or opportunities/commitments elsewhere that mean there is reduced interest.

What will the future be of the holidays? Lots of efforts in the past to reduce costs of the holidays by both Hilary (previous years) and Sue (the last two years). Hilary said the transport has always been free. Kate asked if the transport money be used for the hotel room to reduce costs.

Sue explained that a lot of VIPs go on their own holidays overseas and the guides also go on their own holidays. Sue said if there are enough people that want the holiday then we can look at it again. It is a lot of work for those who are organising it and ringing around to get the best price and so this can only really be done if we have the demand. Suggestion from the floor, in the September newsletter, could we ask again for interest in holidays and see what happens. Sue agreed to action this suggestion.

9. **Close:** The meeting ended at 7.35pm. It was followed by a raffle and then lovely buffet meal - thanks also to Wendy and Olwen who provided it.