

# The Watercress Way

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Meeting at **8:00pm on Tuesday 16 June 2020**

via Zoom due to Covid-19 lockdown



This meeting reports on the period from June 2019 until June 2020.

The 9 Trustees are the only members of The Watercress Way. Members of the public were invited as observers.

**Attending:** Jackie Porter, Kim Adams, Mike Collis, Clive Cook, Kay Mead, Stephen Jeffery

**Observers:** Chris Cornell, Gail Alexander (WCV), Richard Gedge, Sue and Ben McIntosh, Ed Thoday, Yvette Riley (IVPC), Lucy Collis, Tom McIsaac

**Apologies:** Tony Langridge, Pascale Asbee, Jim Thompson

**1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 20 June 2019:** Minutes agreed and signed by the Chairman

**Matters arising:** None

**2. Meet the Trustees:** Chairman Jackie Porter introduced the trustees and welcomed new trustees Stephen Jeffery and Pascale Asbee. She thanked retiring trustees Malcolm Prince and Bruce Graham for their highly valued contributions. The Watercress Way will continue to work closely with Worthys Conservation Volunteers.

**3. Report from Chairman:**

- Annual report: Jackie thanked the observers for their interest in the work of the charity. She thanked all the trustees for their hard work over the past year. She presented a written report on the progress during the last year available via <http://www.thewatercressway.org.uk/>

She highlighted:

- The success of annual Dawn to Dusk Day in April 2019 and the series of well attended guided walks led by trustees. Unfortunately the 2020 day had to be cancelled due to the lockdown but we hope to be back in 2021.
- The work on conservation by our brushcutter trained trustees to improve access and bio-diversity. The contribution to the work done by Worthys Conservation Volunteers at Worthy Down Halt and helped it achieve Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) status from HCC.
- The generous donation of £4500 from Alresford Rotary club in remembrance of Mr and Mrs Newitt. This will be used to install 10 more benches and some listening posts.
- The old railway line through Top Field, Kings Worthy was officially designated as a Public Bridleway by Hampshire County Council and a new section of the old Watercress Line, also in Kings Worthy, was successfully claimed too. It is overgrown, but we will be working with the developers and Winchester City Council to join it to our network. It is hoped that this will be opened in 2021.
- We received recognition from the CPRE in the Community and Voluntary Award 2019 sponsored by Southern Co-op. Our donations were double that for 2018/19, and we had increased our volunteering, Facebook and email by a similar percentage too.

- We advertised The Watercress Way through local fetes and shows and via our website and Facebook page. In addition leaflets are available in many locations on the trail and also in local tourist offices and businesses.
- We have raised funds for our projects through grants, sponsorship by local businesses, donations and by a very successful quiz night at a local pub
- **Plans for 2020-21:**
  - Enhance the environs of the Wonston Rd bridge and open the area for public use
  - Build an access ramp for wheel chair users at Couch Green by liaising with Itchen Valley Parish Council and obtaining the necessary planning permissions and grants
  - Open a designated path through the new Top Field development in Kings Worthy respecting the ecology of the area
  - Install 10 benches and 10 listening posts using funds donated by the Rotary Club in Alresford (deferred from 2019-20 due to the lockdown)
  - Continue to increase the awareness and use of the route through guided walks and local events as well as Facebook and the website
  - Increase the use of volunteers, in particular DoE students, to improve awareness and access to the line

#### 4. Report from Treasurer:

- **Accounts to year end April 2020:** Treasurer Kay Mead has prepared and presented the annual accounts to the Trustees who have agreed and signed them.  
Overall income is up by almost £6,500.  
Restricted income: £4,500 received from the Rotary Club of Alresford. This is a restricted donation for the purchase and installation of memorial benches.  
Unrestricted income: Online donations £468.99. Most of this is from My Donate and the service which replaced it, Local Giving. We also received £63.33 from Give As You Live, the donation service which donates when a supporter purchases goods on the internet - this is slow to come through but there is more in the pipeline and if we could attract a few more GAYL supporters this could become a good income stream. Other donations £1,738.60. Mainly from our Quiz Night £579 and Tony Langridge's Challenge Adventure cycle sponsorship, £410.  
Expenditure is down from last year at £2,559.21. The largest item is for work on Projects, and most of this is for costs related to posts and waymarkers. Included in projects is the topographical survey for the Couch Green project. The other major items are printing, most of which is for leaflets for the information boards, so effectively this is also a direct cost of implementing projects.
- **Current funds:** Fundraising through events has been suspended because of lockdown. The bank balance is currently £8,907.18

#### 5. Public Question Time

Gail Alexander from Worthy's Conservation Volunteers indicated that they were trying to arrange a meeting with Abby Sullivan of HCC and us to discuss the management of Worthy Down Halt. We are very appreciative of the work done by WCV over many years in achieving SINC status and are also keen to meet with Abby.

Yvette Riley thanked the charity for its work on behalf of Itchen Valley Parish Council.

#### 6. Date of next meeting: 16 June 2021

Mike Collis

Secretary, The Watercress Way

17 June 2020