

SFG: Minutes from AGM 2022 / 2023

7.30pm, Thurs 19th October 2023

**Wesley Centre,
Wesley Avenue, Sandbach.**

1. Apologies

Caroline Lowe, Chris Meewezen, Joan Chadwick, Barbara Tomkinson, Robert Shaw, Nicola Coxon, Paul Hughes, Barbara West, Greg Cooper, Carole Reece, Chris Reece, Jane Stanway, Karen Bowyer, Alan Pierre, Elsy Booth, Pat Boxer

2. Approval of previous minutes

1st Keith Haines 2nd John Hind

3. Sandbach Woodland & Wildlife Group - Update

Jonathan Granger Thanked SFG, for help with Footpaths, including repairs. Jonathan gave an update on SWWG projects, namely. FP23 Dancing Bridge, Brook Wood, St Marys Dell, Bath Street Meadow, Dingle Wood, Filter Bed Wood, Offley Wood, Park House Meadow.

Rare Bee Orchid spotted in May near Waitrose, still protested

SFG gave SWWG a very big thank you, we walk the woodland paths most weeks.

4. Chairman's Report

a) FP14 Persimmon Enquiry

There was a Public Inquiry 10 Jan 2023. Many thanks to all who attended and were prepared to make representations.

Unfortunately SFG were unsuccessful, and the Inspector ruled in favour of Persimmon, so the line of FP14 through the Persimmon site has now been built on.

b) Dingle Lane

Good News.

This was approved by the relevant CEC Committee and published on 17th Aug 2023, with a response date of 28th Sept 2023. That date has passed without objection, so Dingle Lane will be shown on the official CEC Definitive Map. This will give the Lane some protection from future development; before it had no status and no legal protection.

The developer of the Waterworks houses and the Dingle Farm houses was committed to surfacing and draining the Lane, so we will have to wait and hope for further action.

Dingle Lane will have the new designation FP52.

Many thanks to all who signed for and supported this, especially Jane Stanway who also persuaded some of the supporters.

c) Wrights Lane

Good News.

This was approved by the relevant CEC Committee and published on 17th Aug 2023, with a response date of 28th Sept 2023. That date has passed without objection, so Wrights Lane will also be entered on the CEC Definitive Map.

It is important because it is some substitute for the part of FP14 lost in the Persimmon estate and because the official status gives the Lane protection from the developers who have applied for building on adjacent land.

Wright's Lane will have the new designation FP53.

Many thanks to all who signed for and supported this.

d) Kissing Gates

The increased price of KGs was reported last year, then £792 each fitted. It is probably more now.

No progress due to non-agreement from certain landowners. Also, since Brexit, the mapping link to Land Registry has stopped working.

e) Threats To Footpaths

Moss Cottage near Winterley Pool was no stile. Now no walk from Winterley Pool is stile free. There used to be about 6 stile free walks

More threats – FPs 17, 18, 19, 50 Muller site near B&M

Muller plans were refused by CEC planning, but Muller went to an Appeal with the Sec of State's Inspector. Richard attended on behalf of SFG and Peak & Northern Footpath Society (PNFS) and made some good points which the Inspector noted and discussed. The Inspector's report will be end of 2023 and the Sec of State's decision may be a year, but there is likely an election in 2024...

The SFG plan for footpaths was mentioned a few times at the Appeal, so we do have a voice.

f) Zurich Insurance.

This is valid until 29th April 2024, £157 (no change).

The insurance covers SFG for negligence and consequential damage, for example, not securing a farm gate and livestock escaping.

5) Treasurer's Report (JH) 2022-23

Cheques / Out Goings

Number	Item		Value
LB000046	Peak & Northern Footpaths Society	Membership	£22.50
LB000047	Unity Methodist Church	Hall Rental	£36.00
LB000048	Open Space Society 22/23	Membership	£45.00
LB000049	Zurich	Insurance	£157.00
LB000050	T W Printing	SWF Printing	£549.78
LB000051	First Aid Training	SWF Training	£63.20
LB000052	First Aid kits	SWF Items	£39.07
Transfer	Stripe Refund	Cancelled walk	£80.00
Totals			£992.55

Receipts

		Value
Member Subs / Donations / Quiz		£998.70
STC Grant		£350.00
Black Water and Grubb Sponsor		£250.00
Total		£1,598.70

Balance Brought forward		£4,655.48
Receipts	£1,598.70	
Payments	-£992.55	
Balance to carry forward		£5,261.63

6. SWF Report

Sandbach Walking Festival 2023		
Income and Expenditure Account		
Income		
Grant STC	£350.00	
Donation – The House	£250.00	
Donations - Walkers	£1199.60	
Quiz – Trail Sales	£165.00	
Total Income	£1964.60	

Expenditure		
Programmes	TW Printing	£390.00
Quiz Sheets	TW Printing	£159.78
Payment Walks		£736.00
Under 5's Books		£30.00
BookWhen Subs		£68.40
Stripe Fees		£21.36
Total Expenditure		£1405.54

Summary		
Income	£1964.60	
Expenditure	£1405.54	
Balance		559.06

SWF	Walkers	Distance	Total Miles	Stiles	Stiles Climbed
2019	491	148.5	1934.4	107	1616
2023	558	197.9	2462.5	71	685

7. New Year's Day Walk.

We usually have a walk with refreshments (mulled wine?) at Sandbach United Football Club on NYD. Discussion.

John Hind has already booked the SUFC

8. Review of members and progress,

a) Facebook, about 5000 members

b) Email list about 600 members,

c) Guided walks, about 2 per week generally, attendance at SUFC on Fridays over 20, about 15 at other times.

9. Reports: closures, diversions, or threats.

Already covered in item 4. e)

10. Adopt-a-Path, secateur work and litter picking, reminder.

Please download the authorisation form from the web-link below:

<https://www.sandbachfootpaths.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/volunteer-waymark-and-veg-cut-registration-letter.pdf>

11 Election of Officers.

It is now 2 years since the officers were elected, so they have come to end of their terms.

a) Officers will be asked if they are willing to stand, and

b) whether anyone else wants to challenge them, then

c) we can vote accordingly:

Trevor Boxer - Chairman

John Hind – Treasurer

Kay Hind – Secretary

Janet Luther – Vice Chair.

All officers agreed to stand for another period, and this was agreed with no objections.

12 AOB

NYD walk

It was suggested that we nominate a local Charity to benefit from donations made at our NYD walk. It was agreed that Sandbach Pantry would be the beneficiary of this

Based on feedback for some walkers, they questioned why not all SFG Walks were advertised on FB. GJW apparently replied in a rude and unprofessional manor to one walker, i.e. GJW had other things to do. After some discussion around his commitment, it was agreed that KH would assist with this role. GJW took exception to this offer, and left the meeting early, and also SFG.

Date for next meeting to be announced nearer the time, probably October 2024/