

Minutes of OWW committee meeting 19/7/26 helps on Combe Village Green.

Apologies

Received from Laura, Ian , Richard.

1. Minutes from last meeting were accepted.

2. Matters arising

Chair suggested a social for walk leaders. Still needs to be arranged

3. Chair

An email was forwarded to our committee regarding the future arrangements for Area AGM and Picnic events. Our views were passed on to Richard Birch, Area Chair.

See notes in Area below for outcome.

As we will not now be required to organise the Area picnic for June 2027,

We discussed offering some type of social/walk as an alternative. Mixed reaction and a vote revealed an even spread of views with no strong opposition or desire to continue picnic type event.

Chair asked the committee if we should buy more cooling towels to hand out on very hot walks. It was agreed plus a suggestion to also buy foil blankets and other first aid equipment. Chair will buy more items to share amongst walk leaders

AGM for Nov 2026 was discussed.

Proposed date of Nov 22nd after a Sunday walk at the Red Lion, Eynsham again.

Treasurer very kindly offered to lead the pre AGM walk.

Chair to check for date/ clashes then to book the pub. Repeat as last year re chips drinks etc at the Red Lion.

Email Rosemary with details asap.

Committee discussed how to spend our funds. No strong views expressed

4. Walks

Since the last meeting,including 19/7/26

11 Sunday walks

11 dry walks.

2 Sundays without a walk (one was Area Picnic event)

11 different walk leaders

1 new walk leader (Jocasta)

Average no of walkers = 13

Average distance of walks =10.3 m

5. Weekends away

Our trip to Dunster was a huge success again. Thanks to all who helped with the organising. 24 attended and we did four walks in largely good weather. I felt that returning for a third year wouldn't be ideal, although I would certainly recommend this Yarn Market Hotel and will happily return in the future.

We could also return to Elan Valley in the future

After a lot of research, Chair has made a booking with HF Buxton for 14-17th May 27. This is HF's newly acquired hotel which will be opening in spring 27.

A poll was conducted via the OWW committee Whatsapp group regarding purchasing HF membership for the OWW group. This was approved so £100 has been spent on this. So far we have 17 signed up and each person has benefited from the £30 reduction in the fee. The deposits have been sent. More can join the trip if rooms are available.

6. Socials

Mikron Theatre trip is the next social. 30/7/26 arranged by publicity officer.

Possible Indian meal in Witney will be offered in Oct.

7. Membership

Not much movement. Our membership remain around 140.

8. Committee

9. Finance

Treasurer's report for Committee meeting 19/7/2026

Current balance and recent expenditure

Current balance on 18/7/26 £436.17

Recent payments:

£14 for auditor chocs (received with thanks from Peter Ransome)

£100 HF membership

Area funding for 2026-27

Email received from Area Treasurer beginning July:

Area offered £105 per Group + £1.15 per person = £278.66 as have 151 members for 2026-27

Consulted with Chair & Sec and we agreed to accept. Deadline 13th July - have replied.

Should I have used the WhatsApp group? No need, Committee were happy with decisions made by chair and Sec.

Unity bank survey - done over the phone. Tedious. Will reply to emailed survey in future!

Peter Ramsome has audited the accounts and was thanked with a box of chocolates. Peter is happy, and the Group are also happy, for him to repeat this for the next financial year.

10. Web

Nothing to report.

11. Publicity.

Nothing to report.

12. Ramblers guidance

Ramblers have organised more training for those who have access to INSIGHT. data base. Chair, Membership and Walks Coordinator have completed this.

13. Area

Notes from Jane, Area Rep.

Area AGM and Picnic

AGM

The Area AGM will be in person and run by the Area Council at a location close to Oxford. Groups near Oxford will be consulted for suggestions of suitable village halls and walks.

The next AGM will be 30th January 2026

Area Chair has emailed chairs of local groups to inform them of the decision.

Picnic

There will no longer be an obligation on local groups to host a picnic but they are welcome to volunteer to do so. So OWW does not have to organise one in 2027 unless we want to.

Group AGMs

Please send the Area Secretary the date of our next AGM by 20th July.

Finances

Area still has more funds than it should and will fund appropriate projects. It was agreed that Henley and Goring group should increase the number of kissing gates installed from two to four as other tasks cannot go ahead in time for the current financial year.

Membership

Membership in Oxfordshire was at an all-time high of 2532 at the end of June.

Web

Area has started to use a location on Google for storage of documents to ensure continuity. Local groups are encouraged to follow suit for keeping minutes etc. The Website Officer can advise on how to set one up.

Insight Hub

Users of the Insight Hub must complete the online training on data protection. I think the deadline is in September.

Quiet Lanes

Oxfordshire County Council is piloting the adoption of Quiet Lanes. These will be available to pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders, except where vehicles need to use them for access. Parish and town councils can propose routes for the scheme and ramblers groups are encouraged to support proposals affecting them.

Major developments

The developers of Botley West solar farm are submitting a proposal for a smaller project but too late for consultees to update their comments as the closing date is 15th July.

General Council meeting, 25th April

The meeting was attended by the Chair and the Website Officer. The special motion proposing, for example the replacement of the Annual General Council with a less formal AGM, was not passed.

Henley and Goring's request for a review of walk leader ratios was not supported. The maximum ratio is at the discretion of the walk leader and insurance cover is not affected.

April's Area Meeting

The only outstanding item that I'd noted was that joint walks double the work that has to be done by the Area Walks Coordinator to publicise them.

Next Area Meeting 13th October.

Next OWW Committee Meeting Sunday Oct 25th after a Sunday walk.

OWW AGM proposed date, Sunday November 22nd after a walk led by SB

14. AOB

Discussion re having a copy of the incident form (in the event of an accident on a walk) available and to hand on walks. Chair to investigate sharing this via Wattsapp group for Walk leaders, by email and sharing a link.