



Coleford Welcomes Walkers Steering Group
Minutes
29th September 2022
Coleford Town Council Chambers
18:30 – 20:00

Attendees: Debbie Sturgess (Chair), Simon Jones, Stuart Cox, Jane Baird

Apologies: None

1. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting.

Agreed:

The minutes were confirmed as a true account of the meeting held on 21st July 2022

2. Actions from the last meeting – updates

i) Partnerships with other organisations / businesses

The Chair reviewed with the committee the progress of collaborations which are ongoing and proving fruitful. It was acknowledged that these take time to nurture.

- ii)**
- a) **PROW** – the work carried out to-date was reviewed with special thanks to Jeff Wheeler, PRoW Officer, for his continued support. The work at Bells hotel and country club was our first big project and had been met with much fanfare by residents with four of the five access points not only being cleared but made easier by the installation of the new kissing gates, funded in part by the Build Back Better grant secured by Cllr Allaway-Martin for our patch. The installation of the kissing gate at Bells Recreation Ground was equally well received and the work carried out by the Town Council and PRoW officer was acknowledged.
 - b) **Buchanan Park Direction sign to town** – Stuart Cox confirmed this had been brought before the town council and he would continue to chase the possible installation.
 - c) **Milkwall to Coleford Cycle Track (FODDC Licence)** – the Committee had prior sight of the proposed licence, having agreed the content and authorised the Chair to sign on behalf of the Committee.
 - d) **MoU Forestry England** – The Chair confirmed that the Memorandum of Understanding had been signed as agreed by the committee by email and was now in force. The support given by FE was acknowledged in organising the MoU and their commitment to support CWW going forwards.
 - e) **FODCW** - The weekly community walk was growing in number and proving popular with the attendees. It was noted that the commitment made by CWW to provide this walk was being much appreciated by the attendees.

- iii) **WaW Wall Hanging Panel** – The Chair advised that Chepstow WaW, custodians of the wall hanging, had kindly facilitated the inclusion of the CWW panel in time for the WaW AGM. It was unanimously agreed that in addition to noting the work of Lin in all her hard work in our minutes that a card of thanks be sent to her too.
- iv) **Walking routes / guides** – we are now up to five published walks with another two in the making with Greenacres campsite confirming how useful the route we had written for them had proved. The walks are also available in the TIC in a special folder.
- v) **PR & Marketing** - ideas were bounced around on how to best spend the money we had for this. Button Pins were suggested and the Chair was tasked with obtaining a quotation. Warm vibrant yellow hats were also proposed for the volunteers and members to wear, for not only their safety but to promote the work we do.
 - a) **Quiz Trail** – Jane Baird was working on this project
 - b) **Notification of work carried out** – to look at an environmentally way to promote CWW's work at various sites.
 - c) **Gallery** – The website now had a section for photographs / videos and it was agreed to ask members of the public to put photographs forward for this section promoting Coleford and the surrounding area.
 - d) **Local Photographers** – It was agreed to work with the local photography groups to achieve the above.
 - e) **Walking Trail from Chepstow to Ross via Coleford** – Stuart Cox generously provided his walk on this route. It was agreed for the Chair to work with Ross and Chepstow WaW groups to start on formalising a walk that we could potentially turn in to a nationally recognised trail.
- vi) **Gloucester County Council PROW** – volunteers training day 8th September 2022 – the chair and a volunteer, Libby had attended this event which was an excellent way to meet fellow Gloucestershire PROW volunteers. The presentation was very informative and we were presented with several tools to aid the cutting back of vegetation. A well worth attending event. The chair had requested a copy of the presentation to distribute.
- vii) **Volunteers** – through our social media posts three new volunteers had come forward and joined bringing out number to 4.
- viii) **WaW –Annual General Meeting, Alton, Hampshire 7th / 8th October 2022**
Agreed: That the group would cover the costs of one night's accommodation, registration, welcome evening meal and buffet meal.
Agreed: to purchase a one off Coleford Welcomes Walkers jersey shirt to be worn at this and future events at a cost of £25.00 to be supplied by Forest Apparel, Lydney.

3. Treasure Report

- i) **Update on finances** – the bank balance was acknowledged, with the income being noted as being from local businesses advertising on our site and the BBB grant.
- ii) **Build Back Better grant** – a review was undertaken on where this money could be spent.

4. Review of Constitution

i) To review new draft to present to our AGM in November

Agreed: The revised constitution was accepted by all and would be presented for acceptance at the AGM, as per the current constitution mandate.

- 5. CWW – Proposed Logo** – thanks were noted to Tim Adams Photography for his submission of a proposed logo for CWW. It was agreed that the logo needed to represent walking for all and not to be stereotypical of a walker with boots and walking sticks.

Agreed: To adopt the Forest Green footprint logo with the trees in the background with Coleford Welcomes Walkers within the footprint. To ask for the surrounding white boarder to be removed so it was just the footprint.

6. Any other business – to be advised in advance

- i)** Following the circulation of the development plans at Poolway, by email previously, the meeting reviewed the plans. The Chair confirmed she had liaised via phone and letter with the developer and discussed the importance of not only maintaining but improving the access and status of the current PRoW that crossed the development. The agent had confirmed that the PRoW are not intended to be rerouted. Stuart Cox's concerns were acknowledged and it was agreed to keep an eye on this, with Stuart being best placed in his position on the Town Council.

7. To agree the date of the next meeting

AGM November 24th 2022

END.