



Minutes

Annual General Meeting of the Cotswold Way Association

Held on 9th July 2025 commencing at 1400 at The Westwoods Centre, Bassett Road, Northleach, GL54 3QJ

Those attending: Martyn Hall (Chairman and Trustee), Martin Lovegrove (Vice Chairman and Trustee), Tony Duffin (Trustee), Richard Holmes (Trustee), Malcolm Higgins (Trustee), John Shaw (CWA Volunteer), Becky Jones (CNL), Bernard Gill, Tom Hutchinson (Team Bath AC), Iris McCormick.

1. **Apologies for Absence** Kate Ashbrook, Mavis Rear.
2. **Minutes of the last meeting held in January 2025.** The Minutes were accepted as a true record of the meeting.
3. **Matters arising from the last meeting.** The Chairman said there was only one matter from the last meeting: for the Trustees to consider adding the Colne Way to the list of trails supported within the AONB. This was discussed at the meeting and it was agreed the Colne Way should be included in the list of supported trails. Thus, the complete list of supported trails within the AONB is: *Winchcombe Way, Wardens Way, Monarchs Way, Macmillan Way, Heart of England Way, Gloucestershire Way, Diamond Way, Wysis Way, Windrush Trail and Colne Way.*
4. **Change to the Constitution of the CWA.** The Chairman asked Martin Lovegrove (ML), who is the Trustee responsible for Governance matters within the charity, to speak on this subject. ML said the current part of the Constitution dealing with the election and re-election of Trustees was complicated and not easy to follow. All Trustees felt some simplification and greater clarity was needed. A document with the proposed new section of the Constitution covering the appointment and re-election of Trustees had been circulated with the Agenda for the AGM. ML also said in drafting the proposed changes he had looked at other charities of a similar size to the CWA and noted the simplicity and straightforwardness of their Constitutions covering this area. The floor was then opened for comment.
 - a. **Bernard Gill** noted the date of the proposal document showed the 8th of July and it was agreed this should read 9th July. He noted there was a repeat of the words, "at any time," in one section of the document and it was agreed these words should be removed. He commented that four year terms in the proposal seemed rather long, especially with the possibility of three consecutive four year terms and wondered if three years would be better. The Chairman pointed out Trustee service was voluntary and Trustees could resign at any time with the four years being the absolute limit before consideration of re-election. This was discussed and the four year term was agreed.
 - b. **The Chairman** asked for a proposer and seconder for the proposal and a vote. Martin Lovegrove proposed the changes and Becky Jones seconded them. All voted in favour of the proposed change except Bernad Gill who abstained. The proposal was duly accepted and Marting Lovegrove undertook to submit the proposal to The Charities Commission.
5. **Election of Trustees** The Chairman said that with the proposed change to the Constitution having been carried all Trustees now stood down from their posts and stood for re-election. All were re-elected without opposition.



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6. **Trustee Annual Report and Statement of Accounts** The Chairman referred to these documents which had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting. No issue arose and both were accepted.
7. **Discussion of other major trails in the Cotswolds supported by the CWA.** The Chairman said the CWA supported the following trails: *Winchcombe Way, Wardens Way, Monarchs Way, Macmillan Way, Heart of England Way, Gloucestershire Way, Diamond Way, Wysis Way and Windrush Trail.*
 - a. Becky Jones asked that the Oxford Way section in the AONB be considered. The Chairman agreed to look into it.
 - b. Bernard Gill suggested mentioning the start and finish of the supported named trails and the Chairman agreed to look into it.
8. **Any Other Business**
 - a. Tom Hutchinson asked if he could raise some points (which he had submitted via the web site but had not reached the Secretary):
 - i. He asked how much cash was in reserve. Tony Duffin (Trustee & Treasurer) replied the figure was £20,000 of which £5,000 had been allocated for a forthcoming project.
 - ii. He asked if there had been any external audit of the account. Malcolm Higgins (Trustee and Secretary) said The Charity Commission did not require external audits until the turnover reached £25,000 per annum.
 - b. Iris McCormick asked if the actual work time and effort was recorded for each project and was the value of manpower added. The Chairman explained that for each job a detailed record of the time and effort, including manpower, was recorded and all information was collated by CNL. He also said photos were part of the recording process to show before and after shots.
 - c. Bernard Gill said he wished to emphasise that improving paths did not always need gravel as grass was often a good option. This was noted.

There was no other business.