

Skibbereen Walking Group

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2016

Held on 4th November 2016 in Eldon Hotel at 8.00pm.

PRESENT (41 in total with 8 apologies)

Committee: Chairman – Donal O’Donovan, Secretary- Charlie Crowley, PRO – David Sprott, Treasurer – Rosemary O’Mahoney, Environmental Officer Denis O’Sullivan, Hill walk coordinator - Paddy Leahy, Road walk coordinator – Tim Whooley, Events Organiser – Desmond Barry, General Member Rianne Smith

Members: Marie Sprott, Wilmie & David Owen, Heather Hogg, Gert Skerra, Con McCarthy, Richard & Kathleen Courtney, Angela O’Donovan, Ann Whooley, Donal Duggan, Eileen Daly, Jackie Keogh, Betty & Richard Kingston, Kieran Higgins, Eric & Liz Threapleton, Ian Hardy, Marian Nealon, Pip Biagi, Rory O’Sullivan, Paul O’Callaghan & Charlie McCarthy.

Prospective members & friends of SWG. Rosemarie Leahy, Mike Hogg, Adrian & Susan Thomas, John O’Connor, John Crowley, Tom Mullins & Alan McCauley

Apologies: Monica Greenwood, Jutta & Derry O’Regan, Lal Thompson, Pat & Maura McCormack, Ted & Geraldine Cadogan.

All were welcomed to the AGM by the chairman.

PRESENTATION TO PADDY LEAHY

Paddy Leahy is moving up to Cork and a presentation was made to Paddy & Rosemarie for all his support and commitment to the group over the last 14 years. Tributes were made by Donal O’Donovan & David Sprott. David also gave appreciations of Paddy from members and ex members who were unable to attend. These included Monica Greenwood, Lal Thompson & Tjorven Deane. Founding member, Timmy Whooley, presented Paddy & Rosemarie with a gift (of €100 voucher for Isaacs Restaurant in Cork) from the group. Paddy responded to the tributes and humorously pointed that he had been happy to lead and people followed.... most of the time!

MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 30th October 2015

The minutes of the 2015 AGM had been sent to the members by email so that they could be read at leisure. They were also distributed at the meeting to those who had not received them. No matters arose and no objections were raised. They were approved.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT 2015-2016

The Group had again enjoyed a good year. Donal thanked all the walk leaders for their support and the members for participating. A special thank you went out to all the officers on the committee who keep the group going with their voluntary work. Donal looked forward to be being back walking with us soon when his Achilles, which was damaged in February, is finally restored. We had two successful weekends away to Dingle & Lismore and the introduction of intermediate walks had enjoyed good attendances. Co-Action Skibbereen thanked the SWG when Donal and Paddy Leahy had presented our donation to them earlier in the year.

Donal also thanked the following people in particular for their continued support of the Group:

- The Southern Star and County Sound for publishing and broadcasting our programme.
- The Landowners for allowing our walks across their land.
- The leaders.

TREASURER’S REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2015 - 2016

- Opening bank account balance on 01-11-2014 was **€1,654.77**
- Total income during the year was **€3,040.00** – most of this went to MI (**€2,136.86**)
- There were 83 Full members and 12 Associates.
- The closing balance is: **€1,193.81 as at 31/10/2016**
- A donation of €1,000 was made to the local charity - Coaction
- Share account was opened with Muinitir Skibbereen Credit Union Ltd. and the group’s bank account with the Bank of Ireland was closed.

SECRETARY’S REPORT 2015 -2016.

Due to delivery problems with PhotoBox we were unable to present the collage to Paddy Leahy. This will be done after the AGM.

The quality of Pip Biagi's photographs was commented on with especial mention of her picture of the Three Sisters from Ballydavid Head. This featured Jackie & Heather.

Members and new members were asked to join before the end of November to maximize the number of discounted memberships we could lodge with MI.

David Sprott was thanked for taking on the updating of the Facebook and SWG website with event and other information. These were created by Rianne Smith & Jutta O'Regan respectively.

This year's spring outing will be to Killarney. It is probable that the autumn outing will be to the Glen of Aherlow.

ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER'S REPORT

The current Environment Officer Denis O'Sullivan had been unable to attend any of the associated meetings and therefore there was no report.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2015/2016

Sekeeta Crowley kindly chaired the election of new Environment Officer. Richard Kingston was elected unopposed. Proposed by Charlie Crowley, seconded by Rianne Smith.

Paddy Leahy was stepping down as hill walk coordinator. Timmy Whooley also announced he was stepping down from the committee as road walk coordinator. These latter two roles would be left vacant for the time being. The meeting also endorsed the committee members continuing. Proposed by Tim Whooley seconded by Denis O'Sullivan. The new committee is listed below with proposers and seconders

Chairman –	Donal O'Donovan
Secretary –	Charlie Crowley
Treasurer –	Rosemarie O'Mahoney
Press Officer –	David Sprott
Environmental Officer –	Richard Kingston
Event's Organiser –	Desmond Barry
General Member –	Jutta O'Regan
General Member –	Derry O'Regan
General Member –	Rianne Smith

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- David Sprott discussed the timing and frequency of our Intermediate walks. Various options were discussed and David will put a questionnaire together to solicit member's opinions and ideas.
- Charlie Crowley said that with Paddy's departure the group would try and plan hill walks more in advance and with a small group of experienced hillwalkers do a number of midweek recces to widen the number of walks available to us.
- Charlie McCarthy advised the group of charity walks in the Bantry area on St Stephen's Day in aid of the Cancer Connect bus. Charlie McCarthy would provide more details to David Sprott for communication to members.
- Jackie Keogh suggested we consider non member walk leaders with specific experience such as Kevin Corcoran (flora and fauna), David Ross (Sheep's Head East), Chuck Kruger (Cape Clear) etc. Jackie would explore likely costs with Kevin Corcoran.
- Donal O'Donovan thanked Timmy Whooley for his role as a founding member of the group and for his many years as chairman.
- David Sprott encouraged everyone to explore the group's Facebook account, which now represents a considerable asset of photos, maps and events, and to use the facility to share and communicate.
- Explore Baltimore's Walking Weekend committee expressed their thanks for the support from SWG members recently which raised €700 for the Irish Heart Foundation.

Donal thanked everyone for attending and concluded the meeting.

Charlie Crowley

5th November