

Wakefield District Cycle Forum

Minutes of 2019 Annual General Meeting

Held on Thursday 4 April 2019

Old Restaurant, Town Hall, Wakefield

In attendance

Mark Beswick, Sandy Clark, David Keighley, David Leigh, John Burton, Isabelle Leigh, Ruth Burton, Miles Roche, Joyce Roche, Meg Andrews, Neville Andrews, Janet Taylor, Jeff Kitching, Sandie Wood, Chris Moore, Richard Hall, Alastair Wilson, Linda Holmes, Cherry Oldham, Nick Fox

Apologies received

Sally Lee, Steph Parson, Barry Jeffries

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chair apologised for the need to move the meeting from the original date of 21 March. Those present introduced themselves.

2 Minutes of 2018 AGM

These were accepted as a true record.

3 Matters arising

None

4 Minutes of 2018 Half -Yearly Meeting held 18 October

These were accepted as a true record.

5 Matters arising

None

6 Election of Officers

Chair - David Leigh (Proposed by Sandy Clark and Seconded by Miles Roche)

Vice Chair – John Burton and David Keighley*

Secretary – Mark Beswick

Treasurer – Joyce Roche

Membership Secretary – David Leigh

Statistics – David Leigh

Funding Officer – Sandy Clark*

Publicity and Communication – Meg Andrews

Events Manager – David Keighley*

Rides Manager – Neville Andrews

WMDC Liaison – Mark Beswick, David Keighley, John Burton

Facebook Administrators – Jeff Kitching, David Keighley, Angie Boyd

Website Manager – David Keighley

Workgroup Manager – Vacant

Auditor – Neville Andrews

It was noted that Miles Roche had held the position of Chair for a period in 2018 and he was thanked for this. Thanks were also to be conveyed to Sally Lee for her role as Auditor and to Carole Gregory for her many years of service to the Forum in a number of roles.

*These officers have indicated a desire to step down once suitable replacements are found.

7. Treasurers Report

Opening balance 28.2.18	£46,021.10
Income	£13,926.60
Expenditure	£2,579.46
Closing balance 9.2.19	£57,368.24

The most significant income was the grant from WMDC for the year (£10,000) and income from events (£1,000).

On the expenditure side there were tools and equipment (£824.00), insurance (£486.14), publications (£590.00).

The meeting approved the Treasurers Report.

8. Ride/Events Report

(A) Ride Report

We completed 125 rides in 2018 with 1492 participants in total (130/1779 in 2017). This is an average of 11.9 cyclists per ride (13.7 in 2017). 279 individuals (295 in 2017) have cycled with us, of which 161 were newcomers (155 in 2017) – 134 adults and 27 juniors. Of these

279 individuals, 134 were female (48%) which is significantly higher than the 2017 figure of 39%. Of the 1492 ride participants, 510 were female (34.1%) exactly the same percentage as in 2017 when there were 606 female participants. Our bikes were used 104 times this year (109 in 2017). 34 juniors have taken part in our rides this year (up from 24 in 2017).

Nostell Rides (32) averaged 11.1 participants; Anglers Steady Rides (14) averaged 18.4 participants; Anglers Easy Rides (10) averaged 4.6 participants; Thornes Park Rides (23) averaged 8 participants; Darrington Hotel Rides (11) averaged 14.5 participants; Pontefract Park Rides (11) averaged 11.2 participants; Castleford Mill Easy Rides (12) averaged 11.6 participants; Castleford Mill Steady Rides (12) averaged 19 participants.

(B) Holiday Wednesdays and Village Thursdays

The Forum Team attended functions at Havercroft, Crofton and Outwood (twice) as well as eight Holiday Wednesdays at Nostell Priory in 2018. 27 volunteers gave a total of 713 hours of their time. There were 17 guided rides at Nostell and 1069 children took part in the skills course. £617 was raised through the Tombola.

(C) Bike Doctor Report

In 2018 our Bike Doctor monthly DIY sessions continued at Anglers Country Park (except in August and December). We are grateful again to Graham West, Steve Valentine and Steve Thorley – Lawson for giving their time and skills. Bike Doctors were also present at the Holiday Wednesdays and the four galas/fun days the Forum attended. Two Basic Cycle Maintenance Courses were run in 2018 with over 20 attending.

(D) Workday Report

There were 15 workdays in 2018. 17 volunteers helped on these sessions giving 294 hours of their time. Considerable improvements were made to a number of paths most notably Chantry Bridge to Fall Ings Lock in Wakefield, in the Nostell Estate and the riverside path towards Castleford. Horbury and Ossett Phoenix Rotary Trust funded our purchase of an electric wheelbarrow.

(E) Cycle Path Report

The second and third stages of the Castleford to Wakefield Greenway which extends the existing Castleford Greenway across the railway and river to Methley are due for completion this September. Consultations are currently ongoing regarding the fourth stage which links through Methley to the TransPennine Trail. The long-awaited path through Summit Park, Glasshoughton will be completed by the summer. This will have a number of links to other paths and will result in the next few years in a continuous off-road cycle path from Pontefract Park to Methley with just two road crossings. A Pontefract to Knottingley cycle route is being delivered bit by bit and should be complete in a couple of years. The Forum have identified a number of relatively inexpensive links and are discussing these with Wakefield Council but have made little progress so far. We are willing to commit Forum funds to achieve a number

of these including Walton-Agbrigg, Notton to the TransPennine Trail and the path on the flood defence near Horbury Lagoons.

9. Membership Report

Membership now stands at 1158. Several of our newer members have become volunteers.

10. Liaison with Wakefield Council

Items discussed

- Improvements to Flass Lane, Glasshoughton and link to Pontefract Park
- Potential bridleway from Bleakley Lane, Notton to TransPennine Trail
- Ploughing up by farmer of cycle link in New Crofton (leading to Santingley Lane and Anglers) (He owns the land)
- Potential new Cycle Path on flood defence at Horbury Lagoons (from Forge Lane, Horbury Junction)
- Bridleway improvement Elsicker Lane to Mill Lane, Normanton
- WMDC owned old railway line in Allerton Bywater area with potential link to RSPB Fairburn Ings and RSPB St Aiden's
- Cyclists concerns regarding the Kirkgate (Wakefield) improvements
- Hemsworth to Moorthorpe Cycle Path
- Link from Calder Valley Greenway to Wakefield Eastern Relief Road (to avoid Blue Bridge)
- Developer obligations to provide a continuous cycle path beside Peel Avenue, Durkar and pedestrian crossing of A636 at Swan and Cygnet
- Prohibition of vehicular traffic in Lawns Lane, Outwood and resurfacing for pedestrians and cyclists
- Growing traffic volumes on Oakenshaw Lane, Walton due to Wakefield Eastern Relief Road
- Vegetation cut backs on footpaths and bridleways
- City Connect progress in Wakefield
- Path Walton Park to Agbrigg - upgrading to cycle path

- Obstruction placed by farmer on cycle route from Kinsley to South Hiendley
- Path from Denby Dale Road to Pugneys beside River Calder
- The road layout improvements for cyclists made near the Ruddy Duck (A61/A638) junction (Chantry Bridge)
- Bridleway restored in Summit Park (Glasshoughton)
- Proposed road improvements at Newton Bar (A650/A61) junction
- Pontefract to Knottingley cycle path
- Conditions re cycling attached to planning consent for housing development at Snapethorpe (Lupset)
- Glasshoughton Link Road
- Footpath link Newton Avenue to Umpire Close (Newton Hill)
- Old rail lines which are permissive bridleways in Winterset/Ryhill area
- New Council Cycle Maps
- Council Cycle Champion
- TransPennine Trail Maps

11. Future priorities

- Rideable surface on flood defence, Horbury Lagoons
- Improvements to cycle route from Pontefract Park to Flass Lane
- Cycle link from Notton to TransPennine Trail
- Improvements to bridleways in Winterset/Ryhill areas
- Improvements to Mill Lane to Elsicker Lane, Warmfield
- Links between RSPB sites at Fairburn Ings and St Aiden's
- Upgrading of footpath for to a cycle path Walton to Agbrigg.

12. Any other business

- It was suggested at the meeting that a workday could usefully be used to improve the section of the Wakefield Wheel between the Manorfields Estate in Horbury and Manor Lane in Ossett.

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- The Forum were also urged to press the Council to prioritise the towpath improvements between Horbury Junction/Broad Cut and the Kirklees boundary near Thornhill.
- The 2019 rides programme frequently has two steady rides followed by two easy rides. Can the rides be spaced out better? Action promised.
- A desire was expressed to start more rides from Thornes Park as there are no car parking charges there and it is nearer the City Centre.
- A Ride Leaders meeting will be held at 1400 on Sunday 14 July at Nostell Priory.

13. Date of next meeting

The Mid-year meeting would be held at the Town Hall at 1845 on Thursday 17 October 2019