**LONG DISTANCE WALKERS ASSOCIATION - BEDS BUCKS NORTHANTS GROUP  
MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON THURSDAY 15TH JUNE 2017**

**AT 18 BRANDRETH AVENUE, DUNSTABLE, LU5 4JP**

The meeting commenced at 7.45 pm

**Present:** Gill Bunker (Newsletter/Website), Roy Carter, Norman Corrin (Chairman),   
Peter Engledow, Mary Knight (Social Walks), Peter Simon (Secretary/Local Groups Rep), Alan Leadbetter, Ian Sage (Treasurer)

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|  |  | | **ACTION** |
| **1.** | **Apologies:** Dave Findel-Hawkins (Membership) | |  |
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| **2.** | **Minutes of Previous Meeting (19th January 2017) and Matters Arising:** | |  |
|  | Matters arising will be picked up later in meeting. | |  |
|  | The Minutes were accepted as a true record.  Prop: A Leadbetter; Sec: I Sage | |  |
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| **3.** | **Reports:** | |  |
|  | **(a)** | **Chairman**: **Norman Corrin** |  |
|  |  | Thanks to Ian for hosting the meeting and welcome to Peter.  I’ve done the following.  New Members/Enquiries from Public Dave has notified me of 25 new LDWA members who live within our group’s catchment area. I’ve contacted them all including some who provided no phone number or email address……. The 15 are made up of 12 individual and 13 family members.  LDWA National AGM 2017   * This seemed to go well. * The quiz went well on the Friday night or I thought it did… * Many thanks to all of the walk leaders who led the walks. In particular, praise to Sylvie for leading the 15 mile walk so soon after her tragic loss. * I felt very proud of our group when the A & B routes arrived at Wing Village Hall to see the luxury awaiting us. Thanks to Dennis & Mary, Dave & Lynn and Gill for all of their efforts. * Both The Bell and The Green Man managed to provide the walkers on the respective routes with the meals ordered. * All who went to Bletchley Park said how much more time they wish they had there. * There were some good postings on the LDWA Facebook site after the weekend. The lecturer from The Chiltern Society certainly did provide his money’s worth and the BBN gate at Swan’s Bottom was mentioned. * The format of the AGM may change for next year as Katie Hunt has stood down as National AGM organiser. * I’ve submitted an article to Strider about the gates and memorial bench that we’ve had installed. I forgot to include Dave and Merrian’s idea about the bridge plaque…… |  |
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|  | **(b)** | **Secretary: Peter Simon** |  |
|  |  | Twelve surplus copies of Strider received this time. I have kept them at home pending the Committee meeting. In the short term, it would seem to be best for me to pass them on at Committee meetings to the organisers of the BBN challenge events. It may also be useful to save some copies for display at targeted walking festivals, such as September's Bedfordshire Walking Festival. Are there any such events in Bucks or Northants? Might it be possible to pass some copies on to outdoor clothing shops or at non-LDWA events?  The bulk e-mailing system is not only working, but from my point of view is a vast improvement on the previous system. It spares me significant duplication of effort. I no longer have to keep current the text file of subscription paid members' e-mail addresses. Under the old system, I had to copy and paste the list into the "bcc:" box in my private e-mail browser. This was a slow process, taking several minutes each time I sent a group e-mail. Thanks to DFH for organising this.  The only problem is that I have not figured out how to send attachments on the new system. The problem is so far hypothetical only, since I have not yet needed to send any attachments. For most news items, there are two ways of circumventing this: cutting and pasting of the text of sent items or creating hyperlinks to an entry on the Website.  Received and responded to e-mails.  Almost no phone enquiries.  Spam filters and unsubscribing seem to be working.  Weekly news updates sent to subscriber members except for weeks during which there has been no news to report. |  |
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|  |  | **Spare Striders:** It was agreed they would be taken by Alan (FT&B) and Norman (Irish walking event/local outdoor shops). Roy will have spare August Striders for Beds Walking Festival. | ***Alan/ Norman***  ***PeterS/Roy*** |
|  |  | **Bulk Emails:** Gill will include item in Newsletter to remind members that they must keep their email address up-to-date in their membership details on the LDWA website if they wish to receive BBN Updates. | ***Gill*** |
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|  | **(c)** | **Treasurer: Ian Sage** |  |
|  |  | Significant activity since last meeting:   1. Chiltern Kanter surplus £571 2. Sales of BBN Buffs £125 (including £10 to be banked) 3. Committee Member General Expenses Payments  £240 4. National AGM Expenses £157 (to be banked)   Peter Engledow to be co-opted to committee and made an account signatory as treasurer-elect. |  |
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|  | *Statement of Income and Expenditure page 4.* | |  |
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|  | Ian will check receipts for buffs to tally figures. | | ***Ian*** |
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|  | The Committee members have unanimously invited Peter Engledow to join the Committee. Peter has accepted, with instant effect. Peter will be standing for the post of Group Treasurer at the 2017 AGM. | |  |
|  | It was agreed that Peter be added as signatory to the BBN accounts. | |  |
|  | Two signatories are currently required but most transactions are now carried out online. It was agreed that Ian will change the mandate to allow one authorised signatory. | |  |
|  | It was agreed to keep Ian’s address until Peter takes over. | |  |
|  | Ian read out the required Resolution:  *It was resolved that the authorised signatories in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in section 2, be changed in accordance with sections 5 and 6 and the current mandate will continue as amended. The signing rules in the current mandate, for the accounts detailed in Section 2, be replaced in accordance with section 4.* | |  |
|  | Proposed: N Corrin and agreed. | |  |
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|  | Peter has all required paperwork to complete and will take to NatWest to effect change. | | ***Peter E*** |
|  | BBN cheque signatories will now be Ian Sage, Norman Corrin,  Gill Bunker and Peter Engledow. | |  |
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| **(d)** | **Membership Secretary: Dave Findel-Hawkins** |
|  | We have switched to using the LDWA website for our membership list.  We still have a few non Primary members who have paid the BBN administration fee but not changed their LDWA profile to be Associate members of BBN. These have all been emailed on two occasions and informed they will no longer be contacted as we have to delete our existing lists with their emails.  We have three new members since the last meeting.  Providing a membership total is now quite tricky. Some Family memberships have been split into individual number as is now allowed so it’s no longer as simple as adding individuals to two times number of families. This is also a problem where one member of a family pays the administration fee but they don’t have individual membership details. |
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|  | **(e)** | **Social Walks: Mary Knight** |  |
|  |  | Sep to Dec programme complete and sent to Gill Bunker.   * 21 walks in total including SS and AGM * 12 w/e and 9 Thursday   Preference continues to be that walk leaders choose Sunday, but Saturday walks are enjoyed by many and longer walks (Corby & Parks Trust for example) are planned for Saturdays.  Better information now coming in for number of walkers on walks, thank you to everyone who supplies this information.  I will continue to put available dates for walk programme in newsletter. |  |
|  |  | Mary said numbers on walks were healthy; numbers on weekend walks have gone up. |  |
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|  | **(f)** | **Merchandising/Equipment: Lynn Yorston (non-committee)** |  |
|  |  | **Equipment:** I have sent the up to date list to Gill and Peter to publish on the website. |  |
|  |  | **Merchandise:** Merrian Lancaster has the box of BBN shirts, etc. |  |
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|  | **(g)** | **Website: Gill Bunker** |  |
|  |  | 1. Continue to add photos and keep website updated with details/results of BBN challenge walks, new walks programme, updated Equipment List, etc. 2. This is pretty standard stuff – does anyone have any suggestions for anything else to go on, or different ways of doing things? 3. I still have to learn how to change the header photographs. 4. Is anyone else interested in taking on the website? |  |
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|  | **(h)** | **Newsletter: Gill Bunker** |  |
|  |  | 1. Next Newsletter is the Summer issue – it will be ready slightly later due to this delayed committee meeting and holiday. Deadline: Friday 30th June. 2. Four articles so far, and it will include the September to December 2017 walks programme. 3. Anything to come from committee members? 4. I’ve not done anything yet t*o* encourage more members to receive Newsletter by email. 5. I did manage to hand out some Spring Newsletters rather than post them – but it is not as simple as it sounds as a lot of active members get theirs via email anyway. 6. If I manage to get the Newsletter printed in time I will take copies to the FT&B. |  |
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|  | **(i)** | **Local Group Rep: Peter Simon** |  |
|  |  | Next meeting 2nd weekend in November 2017 at YHA Hawes (Wensleydale). Peter will attend. 2018 meeting in Chatham, Kent? |  |
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|  | **(j)** | **Other committee members:**  None |  |
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| **4.** | **Insurance Issues – Incident Reports** No incidents to report. | |  |
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| **5.** | **LDWA** | |  |
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|  | **(a)** | **Bulk Emails – current progress** Discussed under Secretary’s report. |  |
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|  | **(b)** | **Publicity** |  |
|  |  | Currently we are handing out BBN cards to walkers, using spare Striders, etc. |  |
|  |  | Peter S suggested A3 posters in local libraries. |  |
|  |  | Roy: Does the LDWA advertise in walking magazines, etc. Norman: No, because of expense. |  |
|  |  | Mary said publicity needs to be targeted. Who do we want to target? |  |
|  |  | Target sports centres, outdoor shops. |  |
|  |  | Make use of social media? Peter E will set up a Twitter account. Norman to let Peter have BBN logo. | ***Peter E***  ***Norman*** |
|  |  | Anybody know anything about Instagram? |  |
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|  | **(c)** | **Facebook** – **Daniel Jamin (Non-Committee)** |  |
|  |  | My view has not changed regarding having the page as a public instead of private for the same reason as before regarding our public presence and the potential interest in the group this offers. After all, much of what appears on the page also shows on the BBN LDWA web page. The major difference though is that visitors on a public page can see who is a member of the group. Otherwise it would be good to have feedback about the contents and frequency of updates on the page...  One thing to ask is whether the committee would like me to do a survey on the page. I could run past the committee the elements that could be included. |  |
|  |  | Compliments to Daniel on the Facebook page.  Good response from members.  It was agreed that FB could now become public. | ***Daniel*** |
|  |  | We were not sure about what Daniel’s proposed survey would cover – to be referred back to Daniel. | ***Daniel*** |
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| **6.** | **LDWA 100s** | |  |
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|  | **(a)** | **2017 100 – North York Moors** |  |
|  | **(i)** | **Merrian Lancaster**: Our marshals did a brilliant job, and I'm very grateful to every one of them. I hope to produce something for the next newsletter. I shall also be doing some general feedback, which I'll send to the 100 co-ordinator. |  |
|  | **(ii)** | **Norman Corrin:** It was a manic and confined checkpoint to say the least! We managed to process 478 walkers between 1700 and 2200. Thanks to all of those who helped. |  |
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|  | **(b)** | **2018 100 – Cinque Ports – Norman Corrin** |  |
|  |  | * We’ve been offered a checkpoint at Rye 13 miles. However putting it bluntly I’ve cocked up over this. * I had said I didn’t want to organise it. I’d assumed that Merrian didn’t want to either and as no-one else had offered from my article in the last newsletter I told Neal O’Rourke that BBN wouldn’t be taking this up. This was a unilateral decision on my part. I should have consulted the committee and for not doing so I apologise. * CP 2 is now with someone else. * Dave did tell me that Neal O’Rourke did not have a group for the penultimate checkpoint at Northbourne. I’ve been in touch with Neal and the approx hours are as follows: * Sunday 27th 4.40 am to 06.00 am Monday 28th May 2018. So we would need 2 shifts. * Do we want to do this CP? Dave and Merrian are on the last checkpoint so won’t be able to help. Neal has said he will let us know at the end of the week. |  |
|  |  | Norman will contact Neal O’Rourke to see where help in needed. No decision made on Northbourne CP. Checkpoint co-ordinator needed.  Norman to put item in Newsletter. | ***Norman*** |
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|  | **(c)** | **2019 100 – Hadrian’s Hundred:** No information yet. |  |
|  | **(d)** | **2020 100 - Y 100 Sir Fynwy:** No information yet. |  |
|  | **(e)** | **2021 100 - Trans Pennine:** No information yet. |  |
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| **7.** | **BBN Challenge Events** | |  |
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|  | **(a)** | **Pick & Mix 2018 – Lynn Yorston** |  |
|  |  | We have booked the Great Missenden C of E School for 4th March 2018.  All details have been sent to DFH and Mary for inclusion in Strider and Newsletter.  We will not have a designated Marshals’ walk. Anyone helping on the day can ask us for the route descriptions they wish to complete and can do this at any time near the event. Most helpers do their duties at start and finish but then walk on the day. The choice is open but we only need a handful of people all day. |  |
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|  | **(b)** | **From Here to There 2017 – Alan Leadbetter** |  |
|  |  | Reported oil seed rape fields to Rights of Way @ MGWSP, waiting for reply. Hopefully they will be cleared.  Thank you for all how have offered their help on the day. Just got to update route descriptions then will let Mike and Gill have files to put on SIentries and the website. | ***Alan/  Gill*** |
|  |  | Alan is reporting rape fields to Street Doctor. |  |
|  |  | 77 entries to date. Peter to include reminder to register with next Update. |  |
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|  | **(c)** | **Shillington Shuffle 2017** |  |
|  | **(i)** | **Lynn Yorston**: All is looking good with routes, HQ and checkpoints sorted. The van is booked too.  We need offers of help on the day:  Help at checkpoints 1 and 3 during the day  Help at HQ for start and/or finish  Help at HQ before the start but finishing in time to walk the event i.e. doing car park.  The marshals’ walk is set for 29th October 2017 – details to follow. |  |
|  | **(ii)** | **Merrian Lancaster:** All going to plan, with 3 checkpoints instead of 4. I'll be co-ordinating the recording side of the day – registration team, paperwork, finishing times, triples, certificates and badges. Dave Yorston will be co-ordinating the other marshals. DFH has been working on routes which will involve some changes to avoid section along Barton-Hitchin road. |  |
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|  | **(d)** | **Chiltern Kanter 2017 – Norman Corrin** |  |
|  |  | It was an event to be remembered to say the least. Torrential rain at the start, testing conditions on top of the Beacon followed by a brief respite and then more memorable weather!  Merrian has published the results on the group website. All checkpoints were well run and thanks to Mary for doing the food. Little Gaddesden Scout Hut and Wiggington Village Hall caretakers were content with the state of the halls after we’d been in them and would be happy to have us back.  For Pitstone Memorial Hall the cleaner and booking clerk were not too happy with some of the chairs as they still had mud left on them and were not left in the position they should have been. There was a picture on the wall showing how they should have been positioned but this was something I overlooked. I thought it was all okay when we left.  I believe we are still okay to book it for 2019 when it will be the 20th Kanter.  There were 223 entries, 43 non-starters, 6 retirements and 167 finishers. |  |
|  |  | Norman said the cost of hiring the hall would significantly increase next time. |  |
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|  |  | **BBN Challenge Events: General** |  |
|  |  | Mary suggested that cleaning the hall after an event should be added to the list of designated jobs. Agreed to be good idea. | ***All event organisers*** |
|  |  | **SiEntries – Lynn Yorston**  Both Pick & Mix and Shillington Shuffle are now open on SiEntries  As matter of interest, are we allowed to refuse entry to a specific person even if they enter online**.** |  |
|  |  | Lynn’s question was noted. Mike Hyland and Dave Yorston have access to SiEntries and should be able to advise. |  |
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|  |  | **Group Tally Cards - Lynn Yorston**  These have been obtained and are in the care of Merrian as she and DFH seem to love checking people in at events !! |  |
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|  |  | **PACER – Merrian Lancaster**  I now have access to the system and will test it out.  I haven't used a scanner, but I have done events where they've been used and I don't think they're reliable, so suggest we wait until the flaws have been fixed. As well as saving us the expense of buying scanner(s), we wouldn't have to use bar codes.  We used off-line PACER on the NYM100, without a scanner, and it worked well, but needs three people in the check-in team – one to clip, one to do computer and one to do manual record. As we don't publish checkpoint arrival times, it may be easier to continue with our current method, i.e. manual recording at checkpoints.  I am keen to see if off-line PACER could help us to record times for those who start after the bulk. |  |
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|  | **(e)** | **Wendover Gap Anytime Challenge - Lynn & Dave Yorston** |  |
|  |  | We’ve had 1 completion and have sent badge/certificate to Yorkshire. |  |
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| **8.** | **Donations/Projects** | |  |
|  | **(a)** | **John Nickerson memorial – Norman Corrin** |  |
|  |  | * John Nickerson Memorial Bench. I’ve spoken to Jean Bowers of E&H and they believe this is something that BBN should do as John was a member with us for so many years. * I’ve spoken to Judy and mentioned about a location in Barton Hills. * Roy’s given me the details of Ed Burnett who produced our Founders Memorial Bench. So I’ll contact him. I doubt if we’ll be able to get it installed before John’s memorial walk in October. |  |
|  |  | It was agreed to erect a memorial bench/seat for John.  Norman will get quote and also check with English Nature/Wildlife Trust re putting bench in Barton Hills/Pegsdon. | *Norman* |
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|  | **(b)** | **Dave Norris:** It was agreed to make a donation of £100 in memory of Dave. Norman will check with Sylvie whether to donate to Help for Heroes or NSPCC. | *Norman* |
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|  | **(c)** | **Half Moon Walk, May 2018 – Gill Bunker** |  |
|  |  | We have a BBN team taking part in the Half Moon Walk in May 2018.  BBN: Bras, Blisters and a good old Natter  So far we have 8 walkers: 6 BBN members (including 1 man – brilliant) and 2 BBN daughters.  It’s the Walk the Walk charity – they raise money for vital breast cancer causes which benefit cancer patients today and also, through the research they fund, the future health of us all.  Please could I put in a request for the committee to consider a donation from the group to help our fundraising. |  |
|  |  | A donation was agreed. To come out of next year’s budget. | *Gill/Peter E* |
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|  | **(d)** | **North Bucks rRpipple – Dave Findel-Hawkins** |  |
|  |  | North Bucks rRpipple have a donate a gate scheme. The North Bucks rRIPPLE coordinator is Bill Piers, 01844 290923 or 07799 110128 or [williamjsbpiers@gmail.com](mailto:williamjsbpiers@gmail.com) |  |
|  |  | Contact details to be noted for future reference. |  |
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| **9.** | **Group Activities/Weekends/Social Events** | |  |
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|  | **(a)** | **Walk around Corby: 15th August 2017** |  |
|  |  | No further information. Walkers to contact Wayne direct. Peter S has already circulated a reminder. |  |
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|  | **(b)** | **Bedfordshire Walking Festival: 9th-17th September** |  |
|  |  | Roy confirmed the Festival website is up and running. He handed round a printout of the first page of the booklet including the BBN logo. It is organised by Central Beds Council and Barry Ingram, Area Chair of the Ramblers. |  |
|  |  | Roy is leading the Kingfisher Way linear walk on behalf of BBN (Sunday 10th September). | ***Peter S/*** |
|  |  | He will need LDWA publicity material/spare August Striders. | ***Roy*** |
|  |  | We have gained members via the Festival in previous years so this is a good way of publicising the group. This is the only Walking Festival in our area at present (there is also the IVV Waendle Walks in May) but there are other events where BBN could consider having a presence, e.g. a stall at the Luton Carnival. |  |
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|  | **(c)** | **AGM 26th November 2017 - Updates** |  |
|  |  | Cosgrove Village Hall and the Barley Mow p.h. have been booked. | ***Gill*** |
|  |  | **Deadlines for AGM business**: Notice of the AGM will appear in the Summer Newsletter and the AGM is included in the Sept/Dec walks programme and on the LDWA & BBN websites. 29th October 2017 is the deadline for officer/committee nominations. Peter S will confirm other dates. | ***Peter S*** |
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| **10.** | **AOB** | |  |
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|  | **(i)** | **Buffs – Norman Corrin** |  |
|  |  | The buffs have all been sold. It was agreed to order 50 more buffs. | ***Norman*** |
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|  | **(ii)** | I’ve been in touch with Peco (who manufacture the Tech Tee Shirts) to find out about other **group branded merchandise** such as Fleeces and Beanies. I’ll put an article in the summer newsletter. | ***Norman*** |
|  |  | Norman said the fleeces would cost about £28 with logo. |  |
|  |  | **Beanies:** It was agreed that Norman would get a quote for bulk orders of Beanies. Small, light, not too expensive items that can easily be taken on walks/to events. | ***Norman*** |
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|  | **(iii)** | **BBN Flags/Banners – Norman Corrin** |  |
|  |  | * Do we want any Feather Flag or Tear Drop banners which we can use at checkpoints on group events? Currently we have the group banner only which is used at the start. Below is a picture of the LDWA Surrey banner at the Winter Tanners * Ian has sent me details of a company that his running club use. HFE signs. * They are suitable for 13-18 mph winds. * Prices range from £110 to £242 for the basic Zoom Feather Flag * They have 4 sizes in that style from 2.8 m to 5.6 m. |  |
|  |  | Norman will obtain a quote for the 2.8m flag and base. | ***Norman*** |
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|  | **(iv)** | **BBN Mugs - Norman Corrin** |  |
|  |  | The purchase of BBN mugs was agreed in principle. Burgundy BBN logo on yellow/gold background would be preferred. No ”35th anniversary”. Norman to obtain quote. | ***Norman*** |
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|  | **(v)** | **Group Holiday - Roy Carter** |  |
|  |  | Roy suggested a group holiday - something we have not done for a while. This was agreed. Roy will start planning. Probably Sept 2018. | ***Roy*** |
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|  | **(vi)** | Norman reminded the committee that he will be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM. |  |
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|  | **(vii)** | **Date of next committee meeting Thursday 28th September 2017** |  |
|  |  | **7.45pm at 4 Balfe Mews, Old Farm Park, Milton Keynes, MK7 8QR** |  |
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|  | The meeting closed at 10.18 pm | |  |