

West Somerset and Exmoor Bridleways Association

Affiliated to the British Horse Society

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 25th October 2018 at Moorland Hall, Wheddon Cross

Apologies : Carol Burge

Minutes of the AGM held 7th November 2017

These were distributed at the meeting, read and agreed

Matters Arising - none

Chairman's Report 2018 – Alison Kent

In many ways 2018 has been rather a frustrating and disappointing year. We are all still waiting for news about the outcome of Brexit.

The ongoing Agriculture Bill is slowly working its way through Parliamentary procedure with the promise from Michael Gove of “public money for public good”. This promise could ultimately mean a good outcome for improved public access and Rights of Way.

Your Committee met 4 times this year. Mounted rides were organised during the summer months, but yet again this year they were very poorly supported and two had to be cancelled due to insufficient numbers.

However, the Mounted Trec & Treasure Hunt in September proved to be very popular and 21 new members joined on the day.

B.H.S.

The BHS, to whom we are affiliated, is growing in strength through increasing membership numbers which in turn means a louder voice to lobby the Government for better or improved riding facilities.

A survey carried out this summer by the BHS asking members what their main riding activity was came back with a resounding 96% citing “hacking out around the countryside” as the main reason they rode. This emphasises the importance of our national Rights of Way network, and here on Exmoor we are extremely fortunate to be within a National Park who take good care of almost 1,000 Kms of paths within its boundaries.

The BHS is encouraging all riders in England and Wales to participate in their project “Finding Lost Ways” before the cut off deadline of 1st January 2026. Lost Ways are unrecorded paths that are currently used, but which do not appear on the Definitive Map. They can only be added as a public right of way by using **historical evidence ONLY**. Further information can be found on the BHS web site.

ENPA.

Several path diversions have been completed this year. WS&EBA are always fully consulted before a legal Path Order is made.

Kendle Farm at Exton. Wydon Farm at Minehead Without.

South Hill Farm at Withypool.

Improvements have been carried out on the following bridleways: -

Postman’s Path, Exmoor. West Anstey to Zeal Ford. White Rocks (West Anstey Ridge Road to Slade Lane)

The anomaly at Winstichen Farm near Simonsbath needs to have some historical research carried out, to try and establish whether or not the missing link of a few metres should be legally joined up

to the existing bridleway in the adjacent field.

General Data Protection Act 2018

This Act came in to being in April. Even though we are a very small organisation we must still fulfil the legislation requirements of this Act.

Therefore, **ALL members** – new or old please can you be sure to sign that you are in agreement with our stated policy. A printed copy is available to read at the Membership table. Without your written consent we will not be able to circulate information and news too you.

Please be sure to sign your consent form tonight if you wish to continue to receive communications from us.

Committee Matters.

Earlier this autumn a letter was sent out to all members tasking for help and support in the running and organisation of our Association. Two committee members, for personal reasons, have recently resigned, which now leaves only 5 people!

We really need someone with good IT skills, as it is felt this is the best way to communicate on a regular basis with members, together with a much needed updating of our current web site. Being a committee member is not at all onerous task. Maybe it would help to encourage people to join us if they could become “provisional committee members” for a one year trial period, after which if they felt it was not for them they could step down without loss of face on either side?

I myself, after well over 10 years as your Chairman feel it is high time for a change at the top. I am more than happy to carry on in the role of being the point of contact for both ENPA and SCC where Rows are concerned, as this is very much my specialist subject which I do enjoy fulfilling. I am willing, if required, to act as a “Joint Chair” for one year, to help ease the next Chairman into their new role.

Finally, a big thank you to the committee and Nic Kemp (our Treasurer), who work so hard to make sure all things concerning Rows and other events happen out on the ground for your benefit.

Treasurer's Report

Bank balance as on 30 September 2018 **£1,235.69**

Membership stands at 53 (Treasure Hunt created 21 new members)

The difference in subscription money is due to 5 year membership, also the fact that a second person in the house is £2.00 subscription.

The BHS affiliation fee has increased this year. There are 2 tiers of affiliation, the second one covers events such as Treasure Hunts, which is why we have it.

The website is a biannual charge.

The Chairman thanked Nic for keeping WS&EBA accounts in a clear and concise way.

Election of Committee

Two new members came forward. Amanda Hamley and Peta-Jane Field. Amanda has good IT skills. The rest of the committee agreed to stand again.

Proposed Sue Rose Seconded Gillian Lamble

Jaye Jones suggested that we circulate the date of the next meeting so that anyone can come along.

Members are welcome to come along for the first 10 minutes of the meeting to bring up any queries or problems.

There was a discussion on AK decision to stand down from Chairman's role. AK suggested a joint chair to ease a new person into the role. Peta-Jane commented that the joint chair would have to know the area.

AOB

Michaela Beckett asked how to create a new bridleway. AK replied that Sue Applegate of ENP is the person to ask

AGM meeting closed at 7.30

This was followed by a talk from Leonie Martin on behalf of **THE BROOKE Equine Charity**.

Horsey Quiz took place during the evening when members were invited to answer several questions on Rights of Way – Horse Anatomy – Famous Horses – Identification of unusual bits.