

Safety And Facilities for Equestrians

Annual General Meeting 2024

Monday, 10 June 2024 - Pendragon, Thornhill, Cardiff, CF14 9BB

Present: Joy Esau (JEE), Andrew Yeo (AJY), Ruth Stones (RS), Julie Gurner (JG), Jocelle Lovell (JL), Maria Thomas (MT), Anne Clark (AC) and Meg Gorman (MG)

Pre-meeting: The meeting start was slightly delayed due to an accident blocking access to the venue via Caerphilly mountain.

Meg Gorman and Maria Thomas renewed their membership Subscriptions.

The meeting started at 19:08.

1	Opening Remarks (JEE)	JEE thanked everyone for attending the meeting and declared the commencement of the 2024 SAFE AGM
2	Apologies (All)	Apologies were offered on behalf of Sally Alexander and Meg Gorman - the latter swiftly rescinded, when she arrived, having successfully navigated the traffic disruption mentioned earlier.
3	Presentation of the Annual Report (JEE)	<p>JEE stated that SAFE was a member-led organisation - reliant upon local members to identify issues in their area and take these forward with the support of SAFE. SAFE does have institutional knowledge and a lot of experience in (for example) applying for grants, and can provide considerable support.</p> <p>JEE also said that when there was a project it did not always need a full committee meeting to take it forward but interested parties with the necessary expertise could meet to help take it forward. That would often be quicker and more reactive to any issues arising.</p> <p>The Chairman's report was proposed and seconded as adopted, and passed unanimously.</p>
4	Treasurer's Report (AJY)	<p>AJY stated he had previously provided copies of the accounts to Committee members, and handed out spare copies.</p> <p>He stated that he drop in subscriptions has continued, and SAFE had also not received any gifts, this year. The reduction in this income was only partially made up by the increase in interest rates.</p> <p>As he had mentioned, last year, there are a number of factors: the worsening financial situation leading to people having to cut back, and the lack of activity by SAFE, and/or the publicising of the activity that has been undertaken. There's also an impact in that people can join the Facebook page for free and gain much of the benefits of belonging to SAFE and for no cost. SAFE's last newsletter was 4 years ago.</p>

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4	Treasurer's Report (AJY) - continued	<p>AJY stated he had also completed a cross check of payments into the bank account with the membership list, and identified all of the non-renewals. He had made a proposal under Motions, which he would address later.</p> <p>He also said that he had some administration issues that he would want to discuss with the committee on a future occasion, and would post something to the WhatsApp group at a later date.</p> <p>He proposed that the accounts be adopted, this was <u>seconded and unanimous approval given.</u></p>
5	Election of Management Committee/Office Holders (All)	<p>No-one wanted to raise any objection to the current holders, nor were there any new nominations. The current Management Committee and Office Holders were all proposed, seconded and approved unanimously (with the exception of Graham Shelswell, who had previously cancelled his membership).</p>
6	Motions	<p>6a. AJY referred to his earlier comments regarding the comparison of the membership list with those persons who had not renewed. He proposed sending an e-mail to the people concerned to see if they would consider renewing their subscription or would be willing to let us know the reason for not renewing.</p> <p>He read out the list of former members and it was noted that some of these should not be contacted (for reasons of their ill-health, and similar).</p> <p>The proposal was seconded and the Motion Approved.</p> <p><i>Action Point: AJY to issue the e-mail described. (Action point completed - 14/06/24)</i></p>
7	Any Other Business	<p>JEE said that the meeting would now move on to "Any Other Business."</p>

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7a	Report re new Wenallt path (RS)	<p>RS stated that there was good news - the new portion of the path was all clear, with overhanging branches chopped. It was mentioned that there were still some issues, particularly for riders of larger horses, but this was an overall positive move and RS said she would try and organise some publicity to celebrate!</p> <p>Action Point: RS to take forward re publicity</p>
7b	Blocked Bridlepath/ Parry's Farm (JEE)	<p>There was new ownership of Parry's Farm who might be open to making the bridlepath accessible again - Laura Bell had been in touch. (Bridlepath 49 or 51). Someone needed to take this forward. Liz Hooker was mentioned as a possibility.</p> <p>Action Point: JEE would check Bridlepath number with Pip White</p> <p>Action Point: Linda Bell and RS would touch base and see how matter could be taken forward.</p>
7c	Bedwas Coal Reclamation/Sirhowy Valley (JEE)	<p>JEE went to a talk, recently regarding a project to remove coal from spoil heaps in this area. She had mixed feelings about the work. In the short term, which would last for some years, there was likely to be considerable disruption - but other similar projects had resulted in a good job of restoration in the longer term. Something to be aware of and keep a close eye on.</p>
7d	Primrose Cottage, Draethan (JEE)	<p>JEE reported that the owner of Primrose Cottage has not undertaken the improvements required by Caerphilly council to go ahead with adopting the diverted route along the edge of the property. It is now harder to ride on the official bridleway up the driveway. Caerphilly council are aware that it may need enforcement action.</p>
7e	Ruperra Woods Permissive Path (JEE)	<p>Ruperra Trust had originally given an undertaking that they would never close the route. However, plans might be in place to change ownership - and as it is only a permissive route, the future is uncertain.</p> <p>Action Point: JEE to take up next year, when she has more free time.</p>

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7f	“No Horse” signs (MG)	<p>There was a section of the taff trail now open to horses, which still was marked “No Horses”. This had resulted in other users complaining - and the signs needed to be taken down.</p> <p><i>Action Point: MG indicated she would be happy to take this matter forward.</i></p>
7g	Outdoor Cardiff website (MG)	<p>There were two issues here. A map on the site is outdated - it was agreed that MG would discuss with other committee members and look into a revised map. The second was that the site seemed to link to an outdated version of the SAFE Website. AJY said that he had also noticed this - the Outdoor Cardiff link went to the BHS, not SAFE and the BHS page had the outdated link to SAFE. AJY would make contact and try to have this sorted.</p> <p><i>Action Point: MG to lead in taking forward the map issue.</i></p> <p><i>Action Point: AJY to contact BHS and Outdoor Cardiff to try and get links revised. (Action point completed - 14/06/24)</i></p>
7h	Publicity (MT)	<p>MT stated that she had not realised that SAFE was still active until she received the e-mail regarding the AGM. She suggested that a post be made on Facebook to advise people that SAFE was still in business. This was generally thought to be a good idea.</p> <p><i>Action Point: SAFE Committee to make a post on Facebook</i></p>
8	Closing Remarks (JEE)	<p>JEE thanked everyone for attending and for their contributions and declared the meeting closed.</p> <p>The meeting closed at 20:10</p>