

SAFE AGM 2025

Minutes of Meeting

DATE: Monday, 23 June 2025 (Scheduled Start Time 19:00).

LOCATION: The Pendragon, Excalibur Drive, Cardiff CF14 9BB

PRESENT: Joy Esau (JEE), Andrew Yeo (AJY), Ruth Stones (RS), Jocell Lovell (JL), Meg Gorman (MG), Maria Thomas (MT), Helen Donnan (HD - BHS Access Field Officer)

PRE-MEETING: MT renewed her membership by handing over £5 cash.

MINUTES OF MEETING

The meeting commenced at 19:07 as one attendee was running very slightly late.

1. OPENING REMARKS/WELCOME (JEE)

JEE welcomed everyone to the 2025 AGM. She then invited everyone to identify themselves, for the benefit of the guest from the BHS (HD).

JEE briefly mentioned SAFE's ongoing mission, and that more involvement was needed from people, locally, to drive forward improvements.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were given on behalf of Anne Clark.

3. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT (JEE)

This section had been rolled up in JEE's opening remarks, so matters moved on to the next section, after the report was formally approved.

Report on Action Points from previous AGM

- **Outside Website issues**

Both Outdoor Cardiff and the BHS had links to SAFE that were broken or outdated. AJY had contacted both, following the previous year's AGM, and the matter had been resolved. More recently, AJY had noticed that the BHS website had a map which located SAFE in a caravan park in mid-Wales. He had again contacted the BHS, and they were very helpful - the pointer now being placed in Caerphilly. **ACTION POINT RESOLVED.**

- **Lapsed members**

AJY had identified some members who has not continued their subscriptions, last year. As agreed, he had e-mailed 4 of them to thank them for their past support and ask why they had chosen not to renew. Only one replied, to say that she no longer rode and no longer lived in the area. **ACTION POINT RESOLVED.**

- **No Horse Signs**

MG said the signs had not been removed, and there had been some difficulty tracking down who would be responsible. The matter was largely moot. It was a relatively short stretch and riders seemed to be aware that the signs were obsolete. HD mentioned Jason Bragg (RoW RCT) as a person who could be contacted for issues such as these. **ACTION POINT TREATED AS RESOLVED.**

- **Parry's Farm**

JEE said There was a suggestion by a previous SAFE member no longer in the area who knew the new owners of Parry's Farm that they would be receptive to reopening the Bridlepath . There was a long history about this with legal action taken by the council many years ago but there were still various reason reasons why people were reluctant to ride there .

It probably needed someone on foot to visit the bridlepath, initially, and report back on any perceived problems with opening it to horses, and what the potential remedies might be. **ACTION POINT TO BE DEALT WITH.**

- **Publicity re Wenallt Path**

This was briefly discussed. The path is open and local riders all seem to know this, but there was no enthusiasm for any formal acknowledgement. In addition, the May newsletter had briefly mentioned the Wenallt. **ACTION POINT TREATED AS RESOLVED.**

- **Ruperra Woods**

JEE said she had been planning to undertake some liaison work with the Ruperra Trust about the permissive horse routes within the woods. It was her intention to follow through and take that forward, over the summer. **ACTION POINT ONGOING.**

- **Publicity on Facebook**

AJY said that although this was mentioned in the minutes of the previous AGM as an Action Point, it was not assigned to any particular person. However, AJY had recently made a post to publicise that the SAFE Newsletter had just been issued, and so he considered that this had been met. **ACTION POINT RESOLVED.**

4. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS (AJY)

AJY handed around copies of the 2025 accounts. He stated that things were pretty much of a muchness with previous year. The increase in BHS subscription/insurance was covered by a slight increase in members' subscriptions, and a favourable interest rate.

The only new feature was "Cash on Hand", which related to two membership subscriptions, last year. Yeo still had the £10 (he showed the note), and he would mention this further in a Motion to be proposed later.

MG queried the Reserves, and AJY said that this was correct - JEE said that all it needed was for SAFE to match fund a couple of projects for a significant reduction in funding to occur.

AJY proposed that the accounts be accepted and they were, unanimously.

5. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The current members of the SAFE Committee, and Office holders were nominated and re-elected. In addition, MT was elected as a general Committee member.

6. MOTIONS

6a. Cash Subscriptions (AJY)

Some cash subscriptions had been received, both last year and the current year. This had two issues. First, the cash had to be physically paid into the bank, which involved a trip to Caerphilly, at a cost of £3. Secondly, cash paid in just showed up as cash, which made it difficult to identify the payees during any membership reconciliation, unless separate records were kept, which was cumbersome.

AJY proposed that the Treasurer be authorised to pay the subscriptions in using a bank to bank transfer from his personal account (using the members' names as a reference for identification) and then use the cash to reimburse himself.

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

6b. Historical Documents (AJY)

AJY said he had mentioned this before. SAFE had records going back many years. HMRC regulations only required records to be kept for 6 years after the end of an Accounting period. So, records relating to March 2018 and earlier no longer needed to be kept. AJY proposed that these out-of-date records be disposed of and, going forward, that the Treasurer be authorised to dispose of out of date records after the end of each accounting period, without further reference to the AGM.

The proposal was seconded and carried unanimously.

JEE asked that she had a chance to review any old records, before disposal, to determine if they contained historical data of SAFE's activities and payments made on projects. AJY said that he had an accounts book which was probably what JEE needed to see (and it was agreed that this would be provided after the AGM), but the bank statements would only show that a cheque had been paid out with no description of purpose, so retention of historical bank statements would be of no value.

6c. Notification of AGM - Amendment to Constitution (AJY)

AJY said that SAFE's constitution required that members be given 30 day's notice of an AGM. Together with lead time needed to set up the website and issue the notices, this was nearer 35 days. In the past SAFE had struggled to meet these deadlines.

AJY said that he had intended to propose a shortening of the notice period, within the statutory legislation. However, this year, SAFE had easily made the deadline, so AJY was willing to let the motion lapse and return to it at a later date.

The motion was allowed to lapse.

7. ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

7a. SAFE newsletter and IT Issues

AJY reported that a newsletter had been issued in May. Going forward, he requested that articles be submitted as soon as they were able to be prepared, and that members should not wait for a call to go out asking for articles. AJY said that it was a simple matter for him to store articles and photos, until there were sufficient to merit another newsletter. In this regard, photographs to accompany any article were welcome, as they could be resized to make the formatting of the newsletter much easier.

With regard to IT issues, someone had the "hots" for the SAFE website. There were regular periods when there were repeated attacks, aimed at gaining the Admin password to the site. AJY was asked why - he replied that the usual reason was to take control of the site, change the password, and then ransom it back to the owners.

Recently, in just one month, AJY said that his systems had recorded over 14,000 such attempts. His system had a defence in that it banned an IP, after three failed logins, for 24 hours. However, attackers routinely repeated attacks through different servers or spoofed different IP addresses. AJY said that he had now instituted two-factor authentication. When logging in, he was sent an e-mail with a code that also had to be inputted, as well as the password. This virtually ensured the security of the site.

7b. North Cardiff Woodlands

HD introduced herself as the BHS Access Field Officer for Wales and thanked SAFE for inviting her to the AGM.

She went on to give a broad outline of her duties, current issues and how she could help groups such as SAFE.

Some highlights were:

- National Resources Wales were going through major changes, at the moment, due to changes in funding from the Welsh government.
- In particular, HD said that there tended to be less of a connection between official groups dealing with routes, and horseriders, and this could lead to some conflict between route users. Horse access seemed to be low down the list.
- HD said she had recently been to a consultation group with TfW (Transport for Wales). The Mountain Bikes organisation was especially good at lobbying. Hopefully it could be arranged for the Minister responsible to ride the route under discussion, with others, to get a better feel for the issues.
- HD said that part of her role was to publicise and support the work of local groups, to represent equestrians in Wales, and lobby for better access.
- HD said that she had also worked with Road Safety Wales, representing the equestrian community. She said she could provide some information for SAFE's newsletter on the work that she did.

JEE thanked HD, again, for taking the time to come to the meeting and brief SAFE on her work and the current situation.

7c. Taff Trail - issues and usage

MG said that she had trouble finding who to go to. Reporting falling trees to RCT took three 'phone calls, and when trying to describe the location, MG was told that they did not use What3Words. HD interjected to say that this was not so - she knew that they did... MG said that she had also reported a caravan that had been burnt out, and the remains were still scattered. MG had sent two e-mails and spent the best part of a day on the 'phone, but the debris was still there. HD said that she might be able to assist, and there was some discussion about who actually owned the land where the debris lay.

Discussion then turned to the upper Taff Trail and a part that ran by Rockwood Riding Stables. Apparently this was not open to riders in general. However, there was an alternate route that could be used. There was some discussion as to whether a further approach should be made to Rockwood, or not.

7d. Cwm George & Casehill Woods, Dinas Powis

JL said that it was going on for some time since SAFE had donated money for resurfacing.

Last year a landslide caused a blockage, preventing horses. Then a gate had been locked effectively banning access for horses. So, about 25 local riders had got together as a group, to tackle the issue with the Woodland Trust. However, they currently had no interest in opening up again.

This was still an ongoing issue and JL was trying to get a meeting, as they are allowing bikers to use the area. There are limited riding routes in the Vale of Glamorgan.

7e. Not taken forward

Due to noise in the original location, the group had moved outside, some time earlier. However, the temperature had become progressively chillier, and JEE therefore said she would not proceed with her report, but would call the meeting to a close and would discuss the issue with the SAFE Committee and others, via the WhatsApp group.

8. Closing

JEE thanked everyone for attending, and especially HD, for coming on behalf of the BHS. She called the meeting to a close.