

SAFE AGM 2026

MINUTES

Page 1 of 3

Date and Time: Tuesday, 9 June 2026 7 pm

Location: Pendragon Pub, CARDIFF, CF14 9BB

PRE-AGM

There were no attendees requiring to be set up. It was decided to start the meeting slightly early, at 6:55 pm.

ATTENDEES

Joy Esau (JEE - Acting Chair), Andrew Yeo (AJY - Treasurer), Ruth Stones (RS), Jocelle Lovell (JL), Meg Gorman (MG).

1. OPENING REMARKS

JEE opened by welcoming everyone to the 2026 SAFE AGM.

She confirmed that timing was tight and the aim was to end the meeting within an hour.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Helen Donnan and Maria Thomas.

3. PRESENTATION OF THE ANNUAL REPORT

JEE stated that the Annual Report was basically what had been put in the last Newsletter, and rather than reiterate everything here (and to save time), Members were directed to that.

It was mentioned that the Newsletter could not be found on the website. AJY said that was deliberate. The website was open to everyone, so the Newsletter was e-mailed to paid up members, and was not made publicly available (via the website) until several months had passed.

JEE took the opportunity to remind members that any activity undertaken since the last Newsletter should be written up as soon as possible and submitted to AJY for the next issue. Photos would also be welcome.

ACTION POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS AGM

Parry's Farm: JEE said that the ownership had changed hands and the new owners seemed sympathetic to opening the route. She needed to walk the route but would appreciate a second pair of eyes. RS volunteered to accompany JEE. *<ACTION POINT FOR NEXT MEETING>*

Ruperra Woods: Still open. Deferred for future consideration. *<ACTION POINT FOR NEXT MEETING>*

4. PRESENTATION OF SOCIETY ACCOUNTS

AJY circulated copies of the accounts. He reported that overall income was down slightly, despite three new members, principally down to the drop in interest rates. AJY also mentioned that there had been a number of other membership applications, which had not been followed up by payment, (although one person did submit a second application and follow up with a payment).

5. ELECTION OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE/OFFICE BEARERS

Current Office holders were proposed, seconded and unanimously approved.

6. MOTIONS FOR THE AGM

There were no Motions submitted for the AGM, and so the meeting moved on to AOCB.

7a. Report on the investigation of banking options (AJY)

AJY said that he had mentioned this before, but the problem with SAFE's Bank account is that it's operating in an analogue system. He received paper statements, some of which were not delivered. Sometimes he had bank statements for SAFE pushed through his letterbox at 6am in the morning or 8pm in the night, although his postal deliveries were always in the afternoon. His opinion was that some kind neighbour was redelivering the letters, on their way past his house, after they had been misdelivered.

Secondly, there was a problem because whenever SAFE needed to pay for something, it would have to be by cheque, so there's no way it can be done by BACS or anything like that. And the third problem is there was more than he would like in the current account, so we're losing out on interest because there's no easy way of moving money between the two accounts. It needs a dual-signed letter, AJY would then need to go to a bank and hand the letter over and it just gets a huge pain.

AJY said he tried going to NatWest, in Cardiff and said, "Can I have an appointment to speak to somebody?" And they basically said no. They said you can't speak to anyone, you need to ring this number. So they gave AJY a number.

So after the usual hassle of half an hour waiting and all the other stuff, they eventually put AJY through to someone and he went through everything and at the end of that the adviser said, we can't help you, you'll have to ring this other number. So he rang this second number and this very helpful chap, or so AJY thought, said there are two options. He said there's no problem putting you on internet banking but you will lose the dual signatory.

AJY said that was not an acceptable option. This second adviser then said there was another option that would allow SAFE to retain the dual signatory, it didn't cost anything but AJY would have to ring a third number to set it all up. AJY thought this sounded promising.

But then AJY did a bit of background research, on this type of account, and the adviser had basically told him a load of rubbish. That the option mentioned the second time is only available to registered companies or registered charities who are approved by the Charities Commission. It's not available to little local non-profit societies.

So basically, after all of that, AJY's conclusions were we just have to stick with it and make the best of what we've got.

AJY was asked about closing the account and opening an account with a Bank that would offer a better solution. AJY replied that it was tempting, but not feasible in practice. Subscriptions to SAFE were by means of Standing Orders. Standing Orders receivable do not automatically move as would Direct Debits. Standing Orders are a "push" transaction, where they are instigated by the Payer to a specific account. Direct Debits are a "pull" transaction, where the transaction is initiated by the recipient's account, from the source account.

So, if SAFE moved to a different bank, it would be necessary for all existing members to complete new Standing Order mandates or move to Direct Debits. AJY thought (and the Committee agreed) that this would likely lead to a mass loss of members.

JL asked about the failed Memberships that AJY had previously mentioned, and would AJY be able to share names. AJY said that he had the information somewhere, and was happy to dig this out and pass on.

7b. Report on Dinas Powis (JL)

JL thanked the committee for the £1k contribution towards the repairs in Cwm George and Casehill Woods. As a result 4.8km of permissive bridleway has reopened. The Woodland Trust are happy to continue talks about opening another route in the future.

A meeting had been undertaken with Dinas Powis community council to explore the potential of creating a new route on the little common.

The first VOG LAF (Vale of Glamorgan, Local Access Forum) meeting was held on June 4th. JL sent her apologies and provided a personal statement for other members.

7c. Campaign to increase membership (JL)

JL said that this was really a question for everyone. Was it worth a campaign in the areas where we know that there is activity, or interest. Or a Facebook campaign. JEE gave an example of spending time visiting yards and handing out membership forms (which she had marked with a symbol for easy identification). After spending a day and a half on this, the result was that no-one responded. AJY said that the SAFE Facebook page was open to all and had hundreds and hundreds of members, of whom only a few dozen were paid up members.

AJY said that, every year, he posted a request on the Facebook group, looking for new members. There were never any takers. In one particular case, a Facebook group member asked why they should support SAFE and not the BHS directly. AJY posted a response (which Helen Donnan supported), mentioning the local focus and expertise of SAFE, as opposed to the BHS's more national focus. The original poster did actually apologise and said she now understood. She then went on to say that she lived in South Wales, otherwise she would support SAFE. AJY replied to point out that SAFE was based in South Wales... but she never responded to that!

It was agreed that the best way to gain new members was face to face and word of mouth, but that is incredibly time-intensive.

7d. Taff Trail Signage (MG)

MG said that this related to the Penrhos Cutting area (National cycleway route 4 east but locally referred to as the Taff Trail). There are 4 'no horse' signs which are believed to be now out of date and no longer applicable given the BHS/Sustrans agreement. Also there is no signage at all about the use of the parallel track which runs down the old sidings (original permissive horse route). Helen Donnan, BHS Access Field Officer Wales, is taking this forward and is arranging a site meeting with Emily Sinclair, Network Development Manager, South Wales, Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (new name for Sustrans) to review signage. SAFE will be included in discussions.
<ACTION POINT FOR NEXT MEETING>

7e. Fly Tipping (MG)

Helen Donnan is also liaising on behalf of SAFE with Jason Briggs, Rhondda Cynon Taff, about removing the remains of a caravan and other mechanical items on part of the route which have now been there for two years. A further report will be made once there is further activity on this matter <ACTION POINT FOR NEXT MEETING>

7f. Rudry Common (JEE)

This relates to the removal of the metal barrier leading on to Rudry Common, as reported in the last Newsletter.

Investigation is ongoing to establish who paid to have the barrier erected and who is now therefore responsible for paying for its removal. JEE said she was hoping to have a more positive update shortly. <ACTION POINT FOR NEXT MEETING>

7g. Cefn Onn Farm (JEE)

There are 3 corral gates, leading off from various bridleways, which converge on Cefn Onn Farm, Lisvane. While these were put in place to ensure no livestock could escape through an open gate, they are no longer serving a purpose and have deteriorated over time, to the extent that they are impossible on horseback and even difficult when dismounted. The plan is for these to be replaced by a two-way opening gate.

There is also a slippery section of road leading down from Cefn Onn Farm, in Lisvane direction where the top surface has gone, so there's no concrete or tarmac to provide grip. SAFE will take this up with highways once the exact location has been established, via What3Words. <ACTION POINT FOR NEXT MEETING>

8. CLOSING REMARKS

JEE said that, there being no further business, she declared the AGM closed, and thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed a little after 7:55 pm.