

**Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Medway Towns Footpath Group,
held at the Howard Memorial Hall, Wigmore, ME8 0PN, on 14th July, 2025**

		ACTION
1.	The meeting began at 7.30 p.m. Ann West, David Kirk, David Brown, Lindsay Floyd, Chris Morris, Leigh Simpson and Teresa Norman as members of the standing committee were joined by 43 other members of the walking group.	
2.	Apologies were received from: Colin Lyons, Lesley Stafford, Colin and Sandra Grant, Margaret and Reg Norman, Sandy Morris and David Turner	
3.	The minutes from the AGM of 15 th July, 2024 were agreed. There were no matters arising.	
4.	<p>Ann West, the Chairman welcomed everyone and gave her report. It had been a year since she had become Chairman.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She gave thanks to the committee for their hard work and said that their individual roles had spread the load and had led to the smooth running of the overall operation. • She gave thanks to Debbie Manship for setting up, and running, the WhatsApp group. Those wishing to be included should contact Debbie. • Ann hoped that either now, or during the coming year, a younger person would volunteer to become the Chairman and invited anyone interested to come along to committee meetings to get an idea of what was involved. • She said that throughout the past year there had been a great variety of walks offered, which had, for undefined reasons, had had different levels of support. A reason for the differences had been looked into, but there seemed to be none. She did emphasise however, that even if only a few people turned up, it was always enjoyable and worth doing. Further to that, she mentioned the London walks, which were always incredibly well supported. 44 on one occasion. • There was intentionally no speaker for the evening. Ann thought it was a great opportunity to socialise and speak with members whom we don't often see. • Lastly she wished a Happy Birthday to Doreen Maguire, a member for very many years who had just had her 90th birthday. 	
5.	<p>David Kirk presented the Financial Report. He mentioned that there had historically been a difference between the Membership year and the Financial year, which he had now resolved.</p> <p>His report showed figures from two previous years, with this year's figures accurate to the day and forecasted until the year's end. Whereas within the two previous years, expenditure had exceeded income, following a change to a cheaper insurer and an increase in the amount of member subscription, that was no longer the case. The financial forecast was healthy.</p> <p>He added that our fee to the Ramblers association was more than covered by the refunds we received from them, and that the new insurance was as good as the old one, except that members had to take responsibility for their dogs, should they choose to bring them along.</p> <p>There were no questions from the floor and Ann thanked him for his hard work.</p>	
6.	Colin Lyons was not there to give his report as Membership Secretary, but had provided figures. There were currently 100 paid members, 2 more than the previous year.	

7.	<p>Leigh, the Walking programme secretary gave her report. She gave thanks to the brilliant walk leaders and to the members who supported the walks. She said how varied the walks had been; they had been urban, seaside, countryside and had been in the capital four times.</p> <p>She re-iterated the perpetual need for more leaders, and said that should prospective leaders be nervous about finding routes, Chris had a wealth of knowledge and would advise.</p> <p>Ann later added that David Turner also had many books she had passed to him filled with walks and advice should anyone wish to use them. She also commented on the fact that so few people had been on the previous evening walk, and reminded everyone of the next one, on the evening of 22nd August.</p>	Chris
8.	<p>Social Secretary's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday 1st November had been set for the next London Bridges Walk. It would go in the opposite direction to the previous one. Lindsay would recce it before then. • The Cream Tea walk was to be on 3rd August, with cake and refreshments at St Michael and All Angels Church in Hartlip. It was approximately 3.7 miles in length. Today was the last day for anyone who wished to attend, to apply. Participants should park neatly along the road outside the church. • The Group holiday to Scarborough had 38 members going. Chris, Barrie and Colin Grant who has knowledge of the area, were organising walks. All participants had paid. • Lindsay had been looking ahead to a group holiday for 2026 and had considered the Isle of Man. Farleigh Coaches had only that day responded to his enquiry with a suggestion for a four night holiday from 31st August, 2026, but this and any other respondents would be looked at carefully over the coming weeks before any decisions would be made. • The Xmas meal had been booked for 7th December, but no menus were available currently. A deposit was not needed until August. Details would be circulated later. 	<p>Lindsay</p> <p>Chris Barrie Colin Grant</p> <p>Lindsay</p>
9.	<p>Chris spoke about his work with the Working Party. He mentioned that its existence had been instrumental in the starting up of the walking group. Initially there had been ten members, but now there were only three. He gave thanks to the other two workers, Andy and another Chris – not a walking group member – for their weekly assistance. He said that the new council had increased their budget ten-fold and they had insurance, tools and a vehicle. They had recently cleared the footpaths due to be used on the Cream Tea walk. Although they were not within the Medway Area, they had had permission from both Medway and KCC to do the work.</p> <p>He attended the Local Access Forum to represent the group. The forum was where interested parties could question the council over issues surrounding footpaths etc. He said that there had not been as many meetings as there should have been and that there was only one footpaths officer, where previously there had been two.</p> <p>He said that the Green Link walks that he had led in London, had been very successful and that most participants had finished the whole thing. He added that he was taking another group to do the walk, so that if any of our members who had missed out on parts, wished to complete the set, they should speak to him.</p> <p>Ann asked whether there was a need for more volunteers, male or female, to join the Working Party. Chris said that theoretically yes, but it was hard work, and they would need to be added to the insurance.</p>	Chris

10	David Brown the website organiser, said that there were no issues with the website and that anyone with any suggestions or photographs for inclusion should get in touch.									
11	<p>Election of the New committee</p> <p>All current committee members technically resigned but were willing to stand again, so, by a show of hands it was agreed that they were to be re-elected en bloc. The existing committee members were proposed by Julie Lowrey and seconded by Margaret Davis</p> <p>The official committee therefore is:</p> <table><tr><td>CHAIRMAN Ann West 07849062727</td><td>SECRETARY Teresa Norman 0794131426</td></tr><tr><td>TREASURER David Kirk 07711920480</td><td>WALKS PROGRAMME SECRETARY Leigh Simpson 01634 235515</td></tr><tr><td>MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Colin Lyons 07752 335054</td><td>WEBSITE ORGANISER David Brown 01634773833</td></tr><tr><td>SOCIAL SECRETARY Lyndsay Floyd 01634 235427</td><td>CO-OPTED for Working Party and LAF Chris Morris 07847 828249</td></tr></table>	CHAIRMAN Ann West 07849062727	SECRETARY Teresa Norman 0794131426	TREASURER David Kirk 07711920480	WALKS PROGRAMME SECRETARY Leigh Simpson 01634 235515	MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Colin Lyons 07752 335054	WEBSITE ORGANISER David Brown 01634773833	SOCIAL SECRETARY Lyndsay Floyd 01634 235427	CO-OPTED for Working Party and LAF Chris Morris 07847 828249	
CHAIRMAN Ann West 07849062727	SECRETARY Teresa Norman 0794131426									
TREASURER David Kirk 07711920480	WALKS PROGRAMME SECRETARY Leigh Simpson 01634 235515									
MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY Colin Lyons 07752 335054	WEBSITE ORGANISER David Brown 01634773833									
SOCIAL SECRETARY Lyndsay Floyd 01634 235427	CO-OPTED for Working Party and LAF Chris Morris 07847 828249									
12	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">It was felt necessary to attract more, and younger, members, and the committee had decided to advertise more widely. Mo had volunteered to co-ordinate people to put posters out in community hubs. Chris understood that posters of that kind would need a Medway logo, and perhaps approval. Ann will investigate this.A request was made for a creative person to make a poster; David Brown thought one already existed and would look into it before the next committee meeting.A suggestion from the floor was that each walking member could arrange to bring along a friend or relative.A Facebook group was suggested and met with approval. Julie said that she would investigate.Active Retirement Groups might be approached.	<p>Ann</p> <p>David B</p> <p>Julie</p>								
13	The official meeting finished at 8.30, at which time a birthday presentation including flowers, wine, cake and a beautiful handmade card, was made to Doreen. We all then were able to enjoy the cakes and other refreshments made again by Julie while we socialised for an hour. Many thanks to Julie.									