

Minutes of the Snowdrop Valley 2023 Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 7.30pm in the Moorland Hall

Present: Committee Members Cllr Eric Norman (Chair), Cllr Jon Levenson, Cllr Claire Rooke, John Anson, Andrew Turner, Angela Edwards, Cally Elston,

In attendance: Liz Stitt (Clerk)

Non-Committee Members: None

Item	Minutes	Action
	Public Question Time. There were no members of the public present	
23/1	Apologies for absence. Jim Winzer gave apologies to Cllr Norman. Lucy Heywood gave apologies to the Clerk.	
23/2	Declarations of Interest. Cllr Norman, The Rest and Be Thankful Inn. Andrew Turner, Private Hire Operator. [Cally Elston joined the meeting]	
23/3	<p>To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21 March 2023. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved following the corrections listed that Lucy Heywood forwarded:</p> <p>1; ‘ a member of the Public’ (that was myself) had said I opened every year; this was not said I had said that we had opened for many years but not opened the past few years .</p> <p>2; I also said ‘I will open when I like’, what was either said or misread, I meant, I will open at my discretion when the weather is good enough for everyone to have enough business, also after the unfortunate mishap this spring when I was verbally attacked, the kiosk decided not to open on the Sunday I choose to open that day due to the weather being fantastic and I think it was a bumper day, this is the reason I choose not to decide days of opening until the weather forecast has been confirmed.</p> <p>Cllr Norman thanked Andrew Turner for his services at Snowdrop Valley and taking people down to the valley at short notice. Andrew confirmed he was happy to carry on doing it if the committee wishes him to do so but got a bit disheartened at some of the negative comments at the previous meeting and feels the committee needs to be more pro-active with saying that if this event wasn’t organised like it is, people would still come and visit the valley, but it would be chaos if not organised like it is. Cllr Norman took this point on board and the minutes were signed.</p>	
23/4	To discuss dates for the 2024 Snowdrop Valley event to put the road closure in place. It is being investigated into combining the road closure notices for Snowdrop Valley, Dunster by Candlelight and Dulverton by Starlight to reduce the costs. It was proposed and agreed for the dates of the 2024 event to be 27 th January – 25 th February and 2025 dates to be 25 th January – 23 rd February.	
23/5	Discuss a bench being placed halfway up route 1 and 2. Cllr Norman highlighted that the committee clears the valley for Exmoor National Park and the paths which saves them a lot of money, so he will put it to the rangers to see if	Cllr Norman

	they can supply some benches in return. Cllr Norman will also ask the landowners permission if we are able to put a bench on the path.	
23/6	Discuss having a volunteer at the market, on market days to stop people parking there on those days. Cllr Norman reported that Jim Winzer will work it into the rota with the volunteers to make sure there is someone there on those days to re-direct traffic.	Jim Winzer
23/7	Advertising for 2024. Cally is starting to update the website now. Around Christmas a 'date for your diary' will be circulated so people can plan things. After Christmas and first thing in the New Year more detailed advertising will go out. Cllr Levenson suggested not advertising in the Coach Tour Magazine and instead using the money to advertise in more local papers. Cally will investigate the cost of advertising in the Coach Tour Magazine then a decision can be made.	Cally
23/8	Merchandising for 2024. Cllr Norman will look at what we have in stock and will bring to the next meeting. Cllr Norman will also find out if another batch of metal snowdrops can be made as they were the best sellers.	Cllr Norman
23/9	Signage for 2024. It was suggested to use different coloured ribbon/markers on the trees for the different routes along with more of the laminated signs to make it even clearer, this will be discussed further at the next meeting.	
23/10	Items for the Next Agenda. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advertising for Volunteers - Discuss a trailer for storage and for use during the event - Discuss using different coloured markers on trees - Discuss having walking sticks to sell - Discuss selling Snowdrop badges/brooches - Discuss outdoor advertising banners on the roadside/estate agent advertising 	
23/11	Date of next meeting. The next meeting is planned for 17 th of October at 6.30pm.	

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 8.33 pm.

Signed:

Dated: