

NORTHANTS LITTER WOMBLES

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held on Tuesday 5 July 2022 at 19:00 at Duke Street Evangelical Church, Duke Street, Northampton

Present : Sally Romain (Chair)
Kevin Potter (CLEAN Co-ordinator)
Gordon Shone, Leigh Mitchell, Peter Duffy, Cathy Pandeale, Georgina Harris,
Freddie Harris, Berney Parker, Monica de Bokx, Bryan Lewin, Alison Hawkes,
Derek Pinckard, Wendy O'Connor, Rebecca Kerr, Jenny Smith, Stephen Smith,
Rebekah Hollands and Jeremy Hollands.

Introduction : Sally welcomed all those present and thanked Jeremy and Rebekah Hollands for hosting us at Duke Street Evangelical Church. Sally then briefed the meeting about housekeeping matters and the provision of refreshments at the close of the meeting.

Nicola Elliott who founded the Northants Litter Wombles was unfortunately unable to attend due to illness. Sally wished to record on behalf of the group the tremendous work that Nicola has undertaken and continues to undertake, in creating a force for good in combating the litter problem in Northamptonshire.

Sally then asked for the members present to introduce themselves and share their visions for the Northants Litter Wombles going forward. This provided open and frank discussions including : the developing of strategic working with local authorities (notification of grass cutting schedule in parks and open spaces), the education programme visiting schools, enforcement of fines for littering, and promoting a community dialogue with an emphasis on cultural issues, such as with people who do not have English as their first language.

Apologies : Apologies for not being able to attend were received from :

Nicola Elliott
Steve Bishop
John Parker

Annual Report : Sally presented the annual report to the meeting. She mentioned that this was the very first annual general meeting as the Northants Litter Wombles (NLW) as a group was set up in January 2021. This was as a result of individuals using the Northamptonshire Walks website during the lockdowns that had been experienced, affording them opportunities to explore their local area more, and in turn, making them more aware of the littering problem. Sally also stated that a Steering

Group had been set up, consisting of Nicola Elliott, Steve Bishop and herself, but a committee would replace them now that an annual general meeting has been called.

Sally confirmed that NLW currently has 3122 members on the Facebook group, though not all were active in litter picking. She stressed that it was still important to have these members as they provided encouragement. Sally went on, stating that 73 separate groups contributed to the litter log and since January 2021, a total of 42186 bags had been logged.

Sally listed some of the media highlights since the group's inception. These included Radio Northampton outside broadcasts, features on BBC television Look East, ITV's Anglia News, and articles in the Chronicle & Echo, Northamptonshire Telegraph, Daventry Express, NN Plus magazine and Oundle Life.

On successful collaborative working with other agencies, Sally mentioned Northampton Partnership Homes, the Northampton BID (Business Improvement District), regularly organised group picks from Duke Street Evangelical Church, local park rangers and neighbourhood wardens. There has also been corporate involvement with Volvo and Kinaxia.

Sally then invited Kevin Potter to inform the meeting of the progress that had been made with the CLEAN (Creating Litter Education and Awareness in Northamptonshire) initiative.

Kevin acknowledged the pioneering work undertaken by the South Leicestershire Wombles and their 'WILE' (Wombling in Litter Education) programme, and how this formed the basis for CLEAN. Kevin went on to mention the efforts made by the Wellie (Wellingborough) Wombles in making visits to schools.

Kevin said he had made presentations at school assemblies to six primary schools, and that four more have made definite dates for him to visit. He went on to acknowledge the input from Alison Hawkes in assisting with dialogue with headteachers and school governors, enabling visits to primary schools.

Kevin declared his intent to visit every primary school in the county and to continue his engagement with uniformed groups, such as Scouts, Beavers, and Brownies. He also stated his intent in time, to involve secondary schools, with an emphasis on students having a community involvement. He went on to say he would like every school visited to make a pledge for 'one thing they as a school are prepared to do.'

Kevin then closed his comments mentioning a young boy, who had recently attended a group litter pick with his mother. This boy, (a Beaver Scout), had seen a presentation, and subsequently challenged his mother who had previously been littering. This example of 'educating the parent' was well received by all.

Sally thanked Kevin for his work so far and supported him in his work going forward.

Sally then spoke to the meeting about the website. Acknowledging delays, she said the website should be 'live' within a couple of days. She presented a visual display highlighting the functions and options that will be available.

Closing the annual report, Sally mentioned she had established lines of communication with the Council for the Preservation of Rural England (CPRE) and the Road Haulage Association, regarding discarded bottles of urine, but with no immediate satisfactory resolution. She also championed the deposit return schemes in place in other countries and the recycling initiative in place in Slovenia.

Finance Report : In Nicola's absence, Sally presented the finance report and advised the meeting that an Income and Expenditure declaration had been shared to the meeting. It showed that there was a surplus of funds of £3670.83 held in the bank account.

She detailed and acknowledged with thanks, the donations and grants that had been received, from the Northampton Community Foundation, the Just Giving page, Northampton Partnership Homes and the Councillor Chowdhury grant. Sally also said that going forward, NLW vests cost approximately £3.00 each and the providing of schools and groups with equipment would draw further on resources.

In response to 'any questions' Freddie Harris of the Wellie (Wellingborough) Wombles asked about the level of coverage provided by the insurance policy. This could not be fully answered immediately but a response will be supplied as soon as possible.

The accounts had been audited by Gordon Shone, Auditor on 3 July 2022.

Election of Officers :

Chair :

Sally Romain, proposed by Cathy Pandeale, seconded by Georgina Harris. Unopposed.

Treasurer and Membership's :

Nicola Elliott, proposed by Bryan Lewin, seconded by Alison Hawkes. Unopposed.

Secretary/Minutes Taker :

Gordon Shone, proposed by Bryan Lewin, seconded by Freddie Harris. Unopposed.

Committee Members :

Alison Hawkes, proposed by Sally Romain, seconded by Cathy Pandeale. Unopposed.

Freddie Harris, proposed by Berney Parker, seconded by Peter Duffy. Unopposed.

Therefore, the committee now comprises :

Chair : Sally Romain

Treasurer/Membership's : Nicola Elliott

Secretary/Minutes Taker : Gordon Shone

CLEAN Co-ordinator : Kevin Potter *ex officio*

Committee Members : Alison Hawkes and Freddie Harris

Any Other Business :

Sally disclosed that the NLW bank account was held with Metro Bank.

Georgina Harris asked if local groups (Wellie Wombles) could access funding and equipment. Sally agreed this was possible.

Stephen Smith reminded everyone of landlord's responsibility regarding homes of multiple occupancy.

Monica de Bokx suggested pinning items on Facebook so that they remained visible.

Berney Parker suggested widening the committee to include members from outside the town of Northampton.

Peter Duffy, in response to a question from Stephen Smith, said that the Helping Hands foundation would assist in sourcing smaller hoops for children.

Berney Parker proposed a vote of thanks to the Steering Group in setting everything up. This was well received.

Sally Romain closed the meeting thanking everyone for their efforts in attending and especially Jeremy and Rebekah Hollands for their assistance in facilitating the meeting.

The meeting closed at 20:20.