

**DORSET CYCLISTS NETWORK**  
**Committee meeting held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2016**  
**The Old Granary, Wareham**

1 – Present: Michael Evans (Chair,) Peter Henshaw (Secretary,) Roland Tarr, John Thraves, Gerry Bannister, John Grantham, John Hayter, Philip Wilson, Ken Cook, Dilys Gartside, Stewart Sinclair.  
Apologies were received from Judy Windwood and Ken Reed.

2 – Minutes of previous meeting

One correction – Ken Cook is the co-ordinator for Ferndown, not Christchurch as stated.

3 – Officers

Jill Buckland-Smith is standing down as Membership Secretary, due to work pressures, and Jerry Bannister was welcomed as her replacement. Stewart Sinclair was welcomed as the new co-ordinator for Poole. Phil Wilson is now also Webmaster.

4 – Financial Report

Phil said that DCN finances still have a comfortable surplus, with £4685.32 in the bank. Future expenses are £328 for EO year accounts and £152 for EO year tax, plus newsletter production. Michael encouraged branches to come up with ideas for spending the surplus, which can't be capital spending but can be contributions to projects like trailways and signage, or providing DCN garments to members who assist Coordinators.

5 – Membership Report

Jerry reported the latest membership figures – 619 individual members including 329 households.

6 – Natural Choices

There was general agreement that DCN members don't have the right qualifications to organise formal rides for those with mental or physical disabilities. But there was support for informally accepting riders on current rides and helping them as needed – several branches already do this.

7 – Branch Reports

Poole – Stewart has accepted the role of Coordinator and has a group who will help cover the entire Poole borough and attend Cycle Liaison Group meetings.

Purbeck – John Thraves said the first meeting will be 15<sup>th</sup> March, Wednesday evening rides are to restart and they have new members.

Dorchester – Roland Tarr had advice for approaching councillors. Where relevant, recruit young mums to write letters and campaign on a specific issue, especially pre-elections.

Weymouth – In Ken Reed's absence, Michael passed on his comment that Weymouth now has a good cycle route network, and he feels that future funding should be spent in Dorchester and Poundbury. Re Rodwell Trail, the Borough Council is to discuss tightening up bylaws on dog control, after incidents on the trailway.

Blandford/Sturminster – Dilys said that North Dorset Trailway is now very popular, but dog control is an increasing issue, though most owners are responsible. Re trailway extension to Stalbridge, just one landowner is refusing to let it through, though surfacing of Stalbridge Lane would give an alternative route. Dilys needs ride leaders for an Easter Monday ride Sturminster-Stourpaine. She has just attended the 20s Plenty conference, and will report on that in the newsletter.

Ferndown – Ken Cook reported successful rides with a variety of leaders. Re Ferndown Common, this is now owned by the Erica Trust, which gives access to funds for better maintenance and signage – DCN is represented on the liaison committee, and will raise the issue of a proposed bridleway, examining the route before next meeting 8<sup>th</sup> April. Also, an M&S food store is under construction on Ringwood Road, which includes a very short piece of shared path which necessitates crossing the road – the site manager blames this on East Dorset DC, and Ken will pursue. The new store will have four Sheffield hoops.

Wimborne – Judy sent in a written report: she has completed a cycle parking survey and will report in the next newsletter. Gravel Hill is to gain a shared use pavement and new housing development at Cuthbury Allotments will include two useful cycle routes.

Sherborne – Peter reported continued popularity of Sunday rides through the winter, with Thursday rides restarting in April, though increasingly disparate speeds means they may have to split into two groups. He has also been approached by a local GP who would like to involve DCN in a cycle promotion day in the summer – Peter will pursue.

Gillingham-Shaftesbury route – Two Gillingham members Colin Parks and Colin Marsh are pursuing this, and Shaftesbury TC has called a meeting to discuss.

#### 8 – Newsletter

Michael needs items by 15<sup>th</sup> April, preferably earlier

#### 9 – Any Other Business

AGM is booked for 18<sup>th</sup> June at the Dorford Centre, Dorchester. Dilys offered to give her Orkney-Isle of Wight talk.

Peter will arrange refreshments.

Replacement of Chairman – Judy has produced texts for the DCN website, local and national press. It has been emailed to all co-ordinators.

#### 10 – Next meetings

AGM 18<sup>th</sup> June.

Next committee meeting 1<sup>st</sup> September

Both at the Dorford Centre, Dorchester

Stewart gave apologies in advance for both.

#### Extra Item

**1. Timothy Huxley**, Senior Transport Planner Mouchel Consulting

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had been invited to address the Committee on three subjects

##### **1.1 The Business Travel Network for Bournemouth, Poole and Dorset**

He asked Committee members if they would send him details of employers he could contact about this initiative to encourage sustainable transport in business, education etc.

**1.2 Love to Ride Momentum Spring Cycle Promotion**. This is a cycling promotion initiative for employees, but not aimed at the general public. He asked if DCN could publicise it. Phil Wilson will add it to the DCN website, but the deadline is earlier than our next newsletter. Michael told Tim that we could give any future event more publicity given a couple of months notice.

**1.3 The Sustainable Travel Transition Year Fund 2016/17**. The three local councils are making a joint bid for funds to provide revenue funding or small capital projects for walking and cycling, aimed at improving access to places of work, education and services. He asked for ideas of such potential work to be e-mailed to him.