

**Minutes of 52nd Annual General Meeting of Oadby Hill Walking Club
Saturday 25th April 2026 Conservative Club Wigston**

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – As Chair Martin Beckett welcomed everybody, and thanked them for coming and supporting the committee. He asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet and that all comments and questions be addressed through chair.

2. Apologies for Absence Ann Branson reported the following apologies : Angela Bailey, Anne Whichcord, Julie Potts, Janet Callan, Rosemary Van der Byl, Adam Wakley, Clare Savage, Tim and Elaine Akers.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes of AGM held 26th April 2025 John Bastow proposed acceptance Helen Everett seconded. Meeting agreed

4. Matters Arising There were none.

5. Treasurer's Report and adoption of Accounts – the Accounts had been circulated to members before the meeting. Martin Beckett explained that last year on 31st March we had £4575 in our bank accounts having made a significant surplus over the previous year. He was pleased to say this year made a small surplus leaving £4725 in the bank. The surplus this year is smaller than last years as we moved to paying coach fares in arrears rather than in advance. This meant that we paid 12 coach payments this year as opposed to 11 in the previous year. We also paid a total of £400 to mountain rescue and the air ambulance, which was not the case in the previous year. There were no questions. Catherine Gwinnett proposed the accounts be accepted and John Bastow seconded. The meeting agreed .

6. Subscriptions and bus fares and donations – Martin said that two years ago we appointed Orbit to provide our coaches as they were at least £1000pa less expensive than the next most competitive quote and nearly £3500 less than the most expensive. At that time the average coach trip cost £690. This year the average is only £710. As a result, the committee unanimously agreed to stay with them. They're nice people, we get great service and they continue to get excellent reviews.

In increasing the fare to £18 per member two years ago we calculated that we needed 38 fare paying passengers on the coach each trip. If we average 40 fare paying members on the coach we will cover our travel costs in the forthcoming year. I'm therefore proposing that the coach fare remains at £18 for members, £20 for guests and £12 for juniors and students to cover our coach hire costs. I am also recommending that the annual membership fee

remains at £15 per head for seniors and £10 for juniors and students. This will help to cover our non transport overheads. As we are a not for profit organisation, I suggest that we keep the coach fees under review with the possibility of reducing them if we are able.

Martin Beckett proposed that on the basis that we managed a small surplus and having paid donations this past year, we pay Mountain Rescue £300 again and Leicestershire air ambulance £100. He also proposed that the first walk should no longer be free but charged at £20. Chris Lynch commented that he had such a good time on his first walk that he felt guilty about not paying. The general feeling was that charging would not put people off. Karl Pochin proposed we agree the subscriptions and bus fares and donations as suggested by Martin . Mike Hinks seconded. Meeting agreed.

7. Membership Report -Mike Hewitt reported as follows: in 2024 -25 we had 88 members and in 2025-6 78 members. However, 6 recent guests have qualified to join and look like doing so and 2 former members have returned. We also have c16 active guests who may well become members.

Mike reported coach seat take up over the past year:

May 39	November 37
June 34	December 39
July 37	January 46
August 33	February 50
September 45	March 49
October 42	April 51

Membership Forms must be completed each year and will go out soon .They must be returned by 31st May .

8.Safeguarding Report -Tim Akers sent his apologies and a report which Martin Beckett read to the meeting. as follows:

1. There were two Safeguarding reports received in the last 12 months. Both concerned the same individual.
2. The first report was received in November 2025 and alluded to matters in this individual's past behaviours that had caused concern to the person doing the reporting.
3. An investigation was carried out but as the individual had not displayed any behaviours contrary to the laws of the OHWC, it was decided that No Further Action should be taken, but due to the sensitivity of the

allegations made, it was decided that the individual would be discretely monitored over the next few months to ensure that they behaved themselves and did not act in a way contrary to the clubs rules and ethos.

4. The second report was received in January 2026. This report was much more concerning. An allegation of verbal abuse and threatening behaviour was alleged to have happened during January's coach trip from this individual towards another member of the OHWC.
5. Again, a thorough investigation was carried out, with witnesses questioned as to what they witnessed, and a statement made by the person who was subject to the verbal abuse and threatening behaviour.
6. It quickly became apparent that the allegation was proven; and because of the behaviours reported in the first Safeguarding report in November 2025, the incident was deemed serious enough to warrant action against the individual concerned.
7. The matter had to be discussed at the next OHWC committee meeting, with a range of proposals as what to do, because one of the possible actions against the individual required a committee vote to enact, as per the Clubs constitution. The four available actions were:
8. The four available actions were: a) Do nothing, monitor the situation as it develops further. b) Give the individual a strong warning regarding the inappropriateness of their behaviour, and further action to be taken if there was any repeat of it. c) Suspend the individual from the OHWC for a period of time, before letting them recommence club activities. d) Dismiss the individual from the club permanently. Do nothing, monitor the situation as it develops further.
9. A prolonged discussion developed amongst the committee members, and it was eventually decided that this individual should be dismissed permanently from the OHWC and not allowed to continue with any club activities.
10. Due to the nature of this individual's past behaviour as alluded to in the first safeguarding report, there was a distinct threat of further acts of inappropriate behaviour against the person they verbally abused and threatened.
11. Both people were members of another local walking club, and that club was contacted to share with them what had happened and the actions taken, and why.
12. The club member who was verbally abused and threatened was advised of the OHWC Committee decision to expel the other individual; and that we had been in contact with the other walking club to advise them of our actions.

We assured the club member that the individual would pose no threat to them whilst they were on OHWC activities, but to be careful at other times.

13. The expelled individual was telephoned and told of the club's decision and a recorded letter outlining the ban with the reasons for doing so, signed by the OHWC Chair was delivered to the individual's address.

14. Due to the nature of the individual's first safeguarding report, the individual was told that if he attempted to join in any club activities, he would be asked to leave. If he refused to do so, then the Police would be immediately called as we deem this individual to be capable of extreme unprovoked violence.

15. It was also explained to the individual that any future threatening behaviour towards the other club member, or indeed any club member would also result in a complaint being made to the police.

16. Due to the nature of this individual's past, it was decided that all committee members would attend the coach stop in Oadby on the next monthly walk to ensure this individual did not attempt to join in club activities.

17. We are happy to say that this individual has stayed away and has not (as far as we know) displayed any more inappropriate behaviours towards club members since their expulsion.

18. Both of these Safeguarding Reports came through to the Safeguarding Officer through unconventional means. The OHWC Safeguarding email was not used.

19. The club has a secure, private email address for anyone to contact the club to report any concerns they have. The email address is printed in every month's newsletter as well as being on the club's website. Only two people have access to that email address.

20. The risks of not using the safeguarding email address are that confidentiality is compromised, and the matters pertaining to the complaint may be inadvertently exposed to the person who is the subject of the complaint or to others who have no right to the information.

21. There is the risk of 'Chinese whispers'; where the safeguarding team is getting information second, third or fourth hand. This complicates any investigation and may mean the subject of the complaint does not get a fair and confidential investigation and hearing.

22. Finally, if the matter is serious enough that it leads to a criminal complaint, or a lawsuit; then the OHWC needs a chain of evidence showing

that we acted in a prompt and correct manner, and made appropriate and correct decisions etc.

23. So, if anyone has any safeguarding concerns, we ask that you only use the correct methods of contacting the Safeguarding team in future. There are two Safeguarding Officers for the club, one male and one female. One of the Officers is not a club member and completely independent to ensure that any decision is fair and appropriate.

24. All reports will be treated with strict confidence and will be investigated thoroughly and fairly.

The meeting accepted the report and thanked the Safeguarding Officer for guiding the club through this difficult issue.

9. Secretary's Report- on behalf of the Committee Ann Branson took the Chair and proposed 4 changes to the Constitution as follows:

1. To better reflect the changing nature of Club business and responsibilities that under paragraph 7.1 the title of Social Secretary be changed to Communications and Social Secretary . Seconded by Helen Everret, agreed by show of hands at the meeting , no one against.

2. Also at paragraph 7.1 To better reflect the changing nature of Club business and responsibilities ,the post of Safeguarding Officer be added to the officers of the Club. Seconded by Helen Everret, agreed by show of hands at the meeting , no one against.

3. To better reflect current practice the wording of paragraph 6.2 be changed to 'that local mid -month walks, walking trips away and social events be arranged if support is forthcoming.' Seconded by Helen Everret, agreed by show of hands at the meeting , no one against.

4. Ann Branson then proposed that an item of late business be heard. Seconded by Helen Everret, agreed by show of hands at the meeting , no one against.

The late Business was 'to agree to add to paragraph 8.4 that there is no restriction on the number of times a member may stand for election or re-election to the Committee '

Seconded by Helen Everret, agreed by show of hands at the meeting , no one against.

10.Election of new Committee members Ann Branson took the Chair. She explained that Martin Beckett had in fact served only 2 years as chair so an election for Chair would be held in 2027 .

Caz proposed that Martin be re-elected as Treasurer . Seconded by Robert Davison .Agreed by show of hands at the meeting , no one against.

Alison Beckett proposed that Gala (Garcia Suarez) be elected as Social Secretary .Seconded by Caz. Agreed by show of hands at the meeting , no one against.

John Bastow proposed that Tim Akers be proposed as Safeguarding Officer ,seconded by Alison Beckett . Agreed by show of hands at the meeting , no one against.

Remaining officers

Tim Akers. safeguarding.....	2 years to serve
Ann Branson secretary.....	2 years to serve
Mike Hewitt. Membership secretary.....	1year to serve
Adam Wakely. Walks co-ordinator.....	2 years to serve

11.Matter raised by Club members Catherine Gwinnett raised the issue of items posted on the clubs Whats App page and said that too many things not directly related to core business clogged up the messages and made it difficult to find key information about eg walks . Martin Beckett replied that he felt that it had always been intended as a social space and matters relating to the club eg walking, conservation, mountaineering issues etc were acceptable. He added that the Committee had agreed to look into new ways of booking walks and the Committee would look into it. He explained that not every member is on Whats App. He said our new Comms Secretary Gala will help us to look into these issues. John Bastow said he does like comms by email and pdf if possible. Chris Lynch suggested we should use the website for booking . Martin said that the Committee agreed and had recently asked for that to be looked into. He thanked Elaine Leaper for all the work she had put into getting the new website set up.

12.Closing Remarks of the Chair

Martin said a few final words before closing the meeting.

‘First of all, many thanks to Elaine for her sterling work on the website and various Facebook sites. I know that our steam driven website has been particularly challenging for her for at least 12 months. Hopefully the new site created by her son Matt, will be far more user friendly. I’d encourage you all to check it out now if you haven’t already. Thank you also to Tim who has improved our newsletter beyond all recognition, and who will continue his role

as safeguarding lead for us. Thanks also to the invaluable work being completed by the ongoing committee members and welcome to Gala. We look forward to working with you. As a final note, by the time I depart from my forthcoming role as treasurer, I will have been a committee member for 9 years. I would therefore like someone to take over the Chairperson role in one year and the Treasurers role in 3 years time. We need some fresh ideas and enthusiasm to take the club to the next level, wherever that be.'