

NEWENT CYCLING GROUP AGM on Zoom

7pm, Thursday 22 April 2021

DRAFT MINUTES

This meeting was be hosted on Zoom by David Price.

1. Welcome intros (David Price, Chair)

2. Present: Howard Atkins, Linda & Peter Cox, Martyn Davy, Mike Farrington, Steve Delacourt, Alan Hopkins, Bryan Knight, Anne Lowe, Stephen Owen, Ray Platts, George Price, Tish Rickard, Martin Roper, Chris Walker, John Walker

Apologies: Hugh Jarman, Bill Foster, Maria Metherall and Ann Allen

40 invitations were sent out, 16 members attended.

3. **Approval of 2020 AGM minutes**

Minutes approved proposed by David and seconded by George.

4. **REVIEW OF ACCOUNTS, SUBSCRIPTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP**
(George)

Accounts attached at the end of the minutes it's been a quiet year because of Covid .

David proposed and Linda seconded.

Increase of the subscription to £7.50

Our biggest expense is the maintenance of the Newent Loop, there is nothing left of the Active Together grant. Subscription money will be spent on: signs, the Newent Loop web site and the new website.

With no objections David proposed the increase and Howard seconded. George will be sending out a notice via email and Spond, payment can be by bank transfer, cheque or cash.

George confirmed he had received two new member applications from Mike.

David proposed we investigate sponsorship for the Newent Loop it does not seem fair that NCG members subsidies it. Possible funding sources could be: other local cycling clubs, Triathlon, Trioscape and other cafes which benefit from the Loop.

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5. REPORTS

i) TECH (Mike)

A replacement for GroupSpaces and NCG web site - Martin and Mike

Spond - everyone has accepted Spond, it's working well and the web site is progressing. 2 people signed up so far. The next phase will be adding information about the Newent Loop, the Newent - Gloucester Cycleway and the Oxenhall Lane ford.

It is live and members can have a look at it: newentcyclinggroup.org.uk Mike is happy to receive comments.

He'll be putting links on including Facebook and Cycling UK (George will change it) when the Loop brochure is reprinted the GroupSpaces link will need to be changed.

The Newent Loop site might need to be changed.

There are more images to come from Peter. Mike was thanked for his contribution

ii) RIDES (Martin)

The last year has been very difficult because of the pandemic. The rides have been running for the last 3 weeks, splitting up into smaller groups. If the numbers continue to grow (23 on the last ride) then two refreshment venues would need to be organised. Martin (or other ride leaders) will call venues in advance as much as possible.

Martin is suggesting a charity ride in memory of Robin, who recently passed away. £10 entry fee plus any sponsorship for the Peace and Hope Trust charity, a charity Robin did a lot for work for. The Gospel Park route and a shorter ride for those who don't want to go up steep hills. The date is TBA because this is also a ride for Robin's friend Mike, a fellow cyclist who lives nearby, plus there are additional restrictions at the moment in Wales.

There is also the possibility of another ride, 50 miles on the Newent - Ledbury Loops in aid of Cancer Research or the British Heart Foundation.

Other suggested rides Covid restrictions permitting:

An away-day at Abergavenny with Paul is likely.

Croome Court with Mike depending on the Covid situation.

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Bristol - Bath.

An away-day from Ledbury with Susanna.

Tintern to Chepstow Greenway - a new route, the path has been re-surfaced. Mike Pollard had tried it and found it not suitable for a road bike, hybrid and mountain bikes would be fine. It's only 5 miles but there's a possible extension over the Severn Bridge to the service station.

Thursday rides start on 20th May when the Kings Arms opens up.

David thanked Martin for all his hard work and that of Mike organising the rides, and hoped that members would respond to ride invites so Martin has a better idea of numbers. A member (not sure who?) endorsed that. Martin thanked the ride leaders who have been volunteering. He'd found it useful.

iii) **THE NEWENT - GLOUCESTER CYCLEWAY REPORT** (Linda, Peter, Martyn, Steve & Tish)

The Cycleway proposal, creating a safe cycling route between Newent and Gloucester via Hartpury University & College, has been submitted for inclusion in a bid for the Levelling Up fund the deadline on 23rd April. The final decision for the Forest of Dean District Council will be end of June. The Forest of Dean features as an area that needs extra financial help. NCG was approached by Vilnis Vesma, our District Councillor, and he suggested we should try and get money for the Cycleway through this fund.

In the meantime Linda has looking into other sources of funding and Tish has been looking to get community support to show that there is a demand. We might need to look into crowd-funding so if anyone has any experience of this they should let us know.

We are proposing the shortest route between Newent and Gloucester and we are suggesting a safe cycle /pedestrian road along the B4215 between Gloucester St and Hooks Lane, Malswick. Highways needs to make the junction safer and we're seeking to get them to incorporate the link with that work.

The Greenway between Murrells End and Maisemore is a bridleway which needs improvement for multi-user access. The current LTP shows "desire routes" between Newent and Gloucester but there is nothing immediately in the pipeline.

Richard Graham, Gloucester MP, is happy to send a support letter from his office to any funding sources.

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iv) OXENHALL LANE FORD (Martyn)

Martyn and Cllr Graham Price have continued pressure on Highways but haven't got very far. Andrew Middlecote said he would find out whether we could do our own feasibility study but never did, and the footpath bridge was replaced by Suzanne Hopes. AM has referred the matter to Atkins. Martyn had just found out the report had been completed and is now being checked. AM commissioned it in the first place! Martyn has asked for a copy. We now await AM's "comments" and Martyn depending on what he says he'll ask for a copy of the report which may or may not be in the public domain. Meanwhile AM has arranged for the ford to be brushed by the "Community Maintenance Gang".

So it grinds on and members should not use the ford on their bike, it's very dangerous at the moment. It wasn't too bad in the winter but now mega slippery.

David thanked Martyn for his perseverance. Martyn is tired of the attitude of Highways to the matter, especially AM.

Steve pointed out that the Highways: Code of Practice is wrong.

6. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

No takers for joining the committee, they are far too happy cycling.

George proposed the re-election of the Committee en bloc. Seconded by Linda and another member (not sure who?)

David Price	Chairman & Webmaster
George Price	Treasurer & Membership Secretary
Peter Cox	Maps and Artwork
Martin Roper	Rides Co-ordinator
Mike Farrington.	Rides and NCG Website
Ann Allen	Transition Newent Representative
Tish Rickard	Secretary
Martyn Davy	Committee Member
Steve Delacourt	Committee Member

7. **FORMAL THANKS** to Linda for her contribution to NCG and continued support as our adviser.

Linda is no longer on the committee, does not live in Newent and cannot go on the rides and we thanked her and Peter for their service.

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8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Nigel asked about riding a tandem with wife. The committee have agreed that members join as an individual, the kind of bike is not relevant.

The Link Ride out of Tewkesbury for a cancer charity, is on Sunday 18th July starting in Tewkesbury with a BBQ at Tewkesbury Rugby Club in the evening. There's a refreshment stop at Bromsberrow. Mike will mention it at the next couple of rides to see if there's any interest.

2 rides of 64 and 32 kms.

Next NCG committee meeting Thursday 10th June

TR 13th May 2021

Attached below the accounts

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NEWENT CYCLING GROUP



INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR 1 JAN 2020 TO 31 DEC 2020

<u>Income</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>£</u>
2020 subscription 41 @ £5.00	205.00	Cycling UK	80.00
2021 subscription 1 @ £5.00	5.00		
Donation from members	<u>35.00</u>		
<u>Total Income</u>	<u>245.00</u>	<u>Total Expenditure</u>	<u>80.00</u>
		Surplus/Deficit of income over expenditure	165.00

Balance sheet as of 31st December 2020

Balance in bank as of 31st December 2020	799.85
Represented by:	
Balance in bank as of 1st January 2020	634.85
Add/less Surplus/deficit income over expenditure	<u>165.00</u>
	799.85

Just as a comparison in 2019 we had 46 pd members and an income of £510.00. This included a donation of £275.00. Expenditure was £1597.10. The major expense was for signs for Newent Loop which was paid for from the Active Together Grant (ring fenced for Newent Loop). The grant money has now all been spent.