

Minutes for DCRA meeting on 15th January.

- Agenda
- Chairman update
- Secretary update
- Treasurer update
- Social Committee update
- Walking Group update
- Potential Changes to Membership fees
- Potential Changes to the constitution
- Possible changes to the Association name
- AOB

Apologies

Don Partridge, Richard Thomas, Robin Pitcher, Mike Bullows, Larry James, Gerry Goodman, Rob Wardle, Fred Lees, Gloria Surridge, Bert and Brenda Dowdell.

Attendance

We had 23 people attend the meeting. Thanks to all for turning out on such a wet day.

Chairman update

Trevor welcomed everyone to the meeting and hoped they had a good Christmas and wished everyone a happy new year. Apologies were read, and others added from members at the meeting.

Secretary update.

Meeting minutes from last meeting were reviewed, details given at the end of these minutes.

Treasurer update.

Margaret gave details of the accounts. DCRA finances are OK at present with 5033.90 in current account and 1663.77 in savings account and are all up to date with no outstanding costs.

There is no income apart from membership subscriptions but there are sufficient funds to continue the DCRA for the near future.

To reduce expenditure, it was decided at the EGM in November 2017 that there would be no tesco vouchers given to members from now on. We will also not send £10 to people in Hospital but we will continue to donate £20 in the event of a member's death to charity of the family's choice. Details of the accounts can be found at the end of these minutes. Don Thanked Margaret for taking on the treasurer's responsibilities.

Social Committee update

Kaye reviewed some plans for social events such as skittles evenings, trips and visits, wine and cheese evenings etc. To get the ball rolling and to get input from the DCRA membership there will be a social evening on 24th March, 7pm at the Highlight park community centre. There will be Tea and coffee as well as some snacks provided but members can also bring their own beverages (alcoholic or non-alcoholic) as well. This meeting is to discuss what the membership would like to see in the social event calendar over the next year. Details of Kaye's report can be found at the end of these minutes.

Walking group update

Stuart gave an entertaining account of the group's activities over the past year. Details can be found at the end of these minutes.

There was some discussion about groups that did short walks as there had been enquiries from other DCRA members. There is a group called valeways that does walks in the vale of Glamorgan and one called the coffee strollers that do short, <2mile, walks from the bridge café on the Knap.

There is also a DCRA Nordic walking group that meets on Mondays and Wednesdays, please contact Rob Wardle for further details.

Membership

Standing orders will be coming in over the next 2 months and fees remain the same as last year for now as any changes need to be agreed at the AGM in September.

Potential changes to the constitution

Margaret went through some possible changes to the constitution which are detailed in the document at the end of these minutes. No changes can be proposed and agreed until the AGM in September. The sort of changes might be, changing cancelation of membership after 1 reminder rather than 2, removing the welfare group which no longer operates, changes to minimum number of members in meetings to make changes to constitution etc.

Changes to the name.

The Dow Corning retirees Group in Midland were requested by Dow to change their name to the DC retirement group as Dow Corning has now become part of Dow Chemical (or Dow Dupont or some iteration of this). At present we have not been asked to do this. Richard will attempt to talk to Ryan Howell to see if this might be coming our way.

AOB

Distillation publication to come out shortly, any photos and articles to Val ASAP.

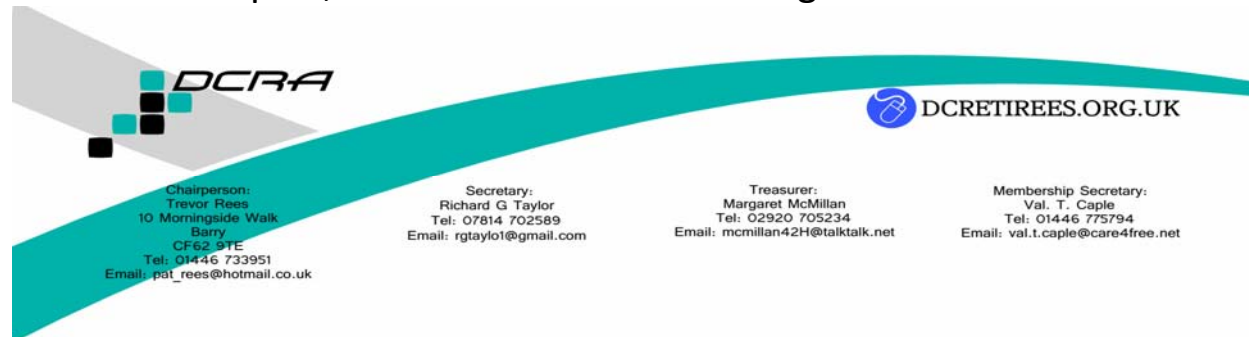
Des Holland not receiving correspondence, need to look into details in the membership list.

Next Meetings

12th March 2018 DCRA Quarterly Meeting at 2pm in the Nature center, near the south gate

4th June 2018 DCRA Quarterly Meeting at 2pm in Trainco2 main gate
3rd Sept 2018 DCRA Annual General Meeting at 2pm in Trainco2 main gate
3rd December 2018 DCRA Quarterly Meeting at 2pm in Trainco2 main gate

Secretaries report, minutes of 6th Nov meeting



Minutes of the EGM held on Monday 6th November 2017

Agenda

1. Appoint a secretary
2. Appoint a trip organizer(s)
3. Appoint two additional committee members
4. Possibility of changing the wording of the constitution

Discussion: -

After some discussion Richard Taylor was appointed as new secretary effective immediately.

New trip/events organizers were appointed, Sue Sugden and Kaye Incledon who will undertake the roll jointly. Many thanks to Sue and Kaye for taking this on. Watch out for future events in 2018. **If you have any ideas then please contact Sue, Kaye or any member of the committee.**

Two new committee members were also appointed, Sue Taylor and Russ Incledon. Many thanks to Sue and Russ for volunteering.

There was a committee meeting for the new team on 21st Nov 2017 at 10.30am at the community center, highlight park in Barry. There were discussions about the roles and responsibilities of committee members, aims of DCRA, review of the constitution and future income and expenses. Please come to the Quarterly meetings for more information.

Finances in the light of Dows decision **not** to fund the DCRA in future and the closure of the shop meant that the only funds coming into the DCRA are from membership fees.

The Treasurer indicated that although there were sufficient funds to continue the association it was felt by most members present that the DCRA would not be giving Tesco vouchers to its members at Christmas this year. Christmas cards would, however, will still be sent.

There was some discussion about whether membership fees should remain the same next year, but this will be an agenda item at future meetings.

Finally, it was decided that because there had been an EGM in November that the December meeting would be cancelled, and the next meeting would be 15th Jan 2018. We will also try to have a guest speaker at each meeting, TBA.

Meetings for your Diary

15th Jan 2018 DCRA Quarterly Meeting

12th March 2018 DCRA Quarterly Meeting

4th June 2018 DCRA Quarterly Meeting

3rd Sept 2018 DCRA **Annual General Meeting**

3rd December 2018 DCRA Quarterly Meeting

Any Feedback or comments to Richard Taylor by phone or by email above, see you all in January

Treasurer update.

Dow Corning Retirees Association					
Income and Expenditure Account for 2017					
2017 Income			2017 Expenditure		
Welfare	0.00		Welfare	160.00	
Members Subscriptions	579.00		Xmas cards/gifts	70.88	
Dow Corning Part Matched Subscriptions	0.00		Tesco Vouchers	0.00	
Manning DC Shop (Paid by Dow Corning)	2160.28		Manning DC Shop	76.28	
DC Shop Takings	1870.00		DC Shop Takings	1870.00	
Admin	3300.00		Admin	496.51	
Coach Trips	0.00		Coach Trips	450.00	
Annual Dinner/Lunch	280.00		Annual Dinner	1375.00	
Friendship Group	0.00		Friendship Group	0.00	
Interest earned (end July 2014).	0.69		Nordic Walking Group	36.00	
			Skittles Group Expenses	0.00	
			Walking Group Expenses	233.65	
			Secretary's Expenses	0.00	
			Treasurers Expenses	0.00	
			Subs	5.00	
			DC Shop Expenses	300.00	
	Total Income	8189.97		Total Expense	5073.32
Surplus for 2017 (Dec 13th)					3116.65
Balances -End of Dec. 2016			Balances - Dec 13th 2017		
Current Account	2039.35		Current Account	5033.90	
Unpresented Cheques at the end of 2016	-673.56		Unpresented Cheques	-145.59	
Savings Account	1663.08		Savings Account	1663.77	
Treasurers Float	0.00		Treasurers Float	0.00	
Secretary's Float	0.00		Secretary's Float	0.00	
Skittles Float	4.18		Skittles Float	4.18	
Walking Group Float	36.11		Walking Group Float	10.55	

Coach Trips Float	0.00	Coach Trips Float	0.00
DC Shop Float	300.00	DC Shop Float	0.00
Unpresented chqs end 2017 now cancelled	81.00	Net Assets year to-date	6566.81
		Minus surplus year to-date	-3116.65
	3450.16		3450.16

Social Committee update

1. Restart the Skittles evenings. Ask Trevor Rees to book the rugby club for a Saturday evening. We won't provide sandwiches anymore. Or people could bring something along. Charge a fee to pay for the club, sticker-up and a raffle. We'll have to work out what to charge.

2. We could organise a get-together to gauge how many people are actually interested in social events and what they want us to organise. Initially we could hold a social evening in Highlight Community Centre. We could provide teas and coffees but people are welcome to bring their favourite tippie. An ideal opportunity to meet up with old friends and colleagues.

3. Depending on the response, ideas for social events are quiz night, cheese and wine evening, coffee morning, lunch at a local venue and any other suggestions.

4. Days out, suggested locations: Bath, Weston, Tenby, Stratford upon Avon, Llongleat, Chester, Burnham on Sea, St David's.

5. Local days out: Tintern Abbey, Tredegar House, Margam Park, Dyffryn Gardens, the Gower, Porthcawl, Brecon Mountain Railway and any other suggestions. These local trips could be combined with a lunch.

6. Holidays, we have had good trips with Edwards. There is also Leisuretime, who offer trips, we could give them a try too.

Some suggestions for locations: Tenby, Weymouth, Torquay, Chester, Ilfracombe, Isle of Wight, North Wales, a return to Liverpool. Suggestions from the group too.

Note to ask Rob Wardle for help here.

Ask people at the meeting for feedback and suggestions.

Walking group report

DOW CORNING RETIREE'S ASSOCIATION WALKING GROUP **REPORT TO 15th JANUARY 2018 MEETING**

In September five members met at Neuadd Fawr farm and had an enjoyable 8 mile, albeit wet and windy walk up towards Table Mountain (above Crickhowell, not Cape Town) before the final ascent up onto Pen Cerrig Clach, along to Pen Allt Mawr, having had lunch in a sheltered spot. The views from the tops were extensive before we dropped down and made our way along the ridge back down to the farm. The heather was unfortunately past it's best, so next time it needs to be in July or August.

The October walk was a Beacons 'classic', incorporating two long ridge walks and 4 summits (Corn Du, Pen Y Fan, Cribyn and Fan Y Big). 7 walkers turned out for this 8 mile, challenging walk but were rewarded for their efforts with reasonable weather and fine views, plus some newly paved areas that had previously been boggy or mud baths - thanks to the Brecon Beacons Park Authority and the Society volunteers work.

We ventured out west for our November ramble, all the way to Llanelli, no less. The plan was to complete a short walk, have lunch and then visit the Wetlands Wildfowl Centre, but after a review of time and costs, we decided to complete a longer walk in the Swiss Valley that turned out to be very pleasant, with a number of interesting features like lakes, cycle paths and railway preservation sites. Twelve walkers completed the walk and some vowed to visit the Wetlands independently in the future.

In December we couple a short walk with our Christmas Lunch and this year we had chosen the Six Bells at Penmark for lunch with a four mile walk around Llancarfan. Stuart recce'd the proposed Llancarfan walk the weekend before and found the walk very muddy with part of the return route underwater, in fact the ducks had settled in. So on the day, fourteen of us walked from the Knap pebble beach to Porthkerry and back on the Wales Coast Path before enjoying a delightful lunch at the Six Bells. We were greeted by scores of chickens when we crossed the car park back to our cars.

During 2017 the group walked 144 miles, taking 81 hours, climbed over 22,000 feet with 168 turnouts. No doubt this amount of effort helps to keep us fit and happy.

The 2018 Walking programme was issued to the 45 members of which 28 have been active, plus we have been blessed with 3 new, young members during the year. The New Year started in customary style by walking up to Pen Y Fan on New Year's day, with whisky toasts and text messages to family and friends, all finished off with hot mulled wine and mince pies on our return to the cars. A Happy New Year to you All.

The January walk from Caerphilly Common. Via Craig yr Allt and Taff Trail was local and at low level to accommodate potential winter weather issues, which on this occasion came in the form of storm force winds that encouraged the postponement for seven days. 13 walkers turned out for the 8 mile easy/moderate walk in fine weather thanks to our weather man Mike Dams (also photographer, hang back organiser and historian) but we did encounter two significant muddy patches enroute. Much Yuk!

Upcoming walks are;

7 Feb	Dinas Powys, Michaelstone-le-Pit, Salmon Leaps, Dinas Powys	6	E
	Meet 1030 at Dinas Powys village centre.		
7 Mar	Rhossili, Broughton, Kings Head, Downs	9	E/M
	Meet 1030 at Rhossili car park at end of B 4247 (SS 415 881)		
4 Apr	Brockweir, Whitebrook, Bigsweir, Brockweir	9	M
	Meet 1030 layby on A466 north of Brockweir (SO 537 013)		
2 May	Taff Fawr, Taff Fechan, Vaynor, Llwyn-On	10.5	M
	Meet 1030 at Llwyn-On car park west side of reservoir (SO 008113)		

Anyone wishing to join, or wanting more information may contact Stuart McMillan (Tel 029 2070 5234, or e-mail mcmillan42H@talktalk.net).

We thank the Retiree's Association and the Executive for their continued support.

Potential Changes to the constitution

1. Title

The name of the Association is DOW CORNING RETIREES' ASSOCIATION, hereinafter referred to as 'the Association'.

2. Objectives

To promote communication, sport, recreation, ~~welfare~~ and social activities.

3. Membership

Membership shall be available to:-

a) Retirees from the Barry factory and those in receipt of a pension from Albright & Wilson Ltd., Midland Silicones Ltd., or Dow Corning Ltd. whether directly from those Companies or from a company administering their pension funds.

b) Husbands, wives or partners of retirees.

c) Widows and widowers of retirees.

d) Retirees from Albright & Wilson Ltd. & Midland Silicones Ltd.

The representative to attend the Trustee Pension Fund Committee meetings as an observer must be a Member of the Association and his/her selection ratified at a properly constituted Members' meeting.

4. Register of Membership

The register of Members will be kept by the Membership Secretary.

5. Membership Cards

A membership card will be issued to each individual Member whose subscriptions are up-to-date.

6. Cancellation of Membership

Membership shall be cancelled in the event of non-payment of subscriptions after ~~two~~ reminders have been sent in addition to the annual notice requesting payment.

7. Restoration of Membership

If a membership has lapsed through non-payment of subscriptions or for any other reason the membership can be reinstated on payment by the Member of a fee of £3 towards administration costs.

8. Subscriptions

There shall be a membership fee, paid annually in advance, on the 1st January. The amount of the subscription shall be decided at the Annual General Meeting to be effective from the 1st January.

9. Annual General Meeting

a) The Annual General Meeting will be held at 2:00 p.m. on the first Monday in September, or on such approximate date as shall be convenient for the use of Dow Corning facilities.

b) Each Member present at the meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting will be by simple majority.

10. Meetings

a) Quarterly meetings shall be held on the first Monday in December, March and June or on such approximate date as shall be convenient for the use of Dow Corning facilities. Additional meetings may be arranged as decided by the Officers of the Association.

b) Each Member present at the meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting will be by simple majority.

11. Extraordinary General Meeting

An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called by:

a) The Management Committee, providing that not less than one month's notice of the matter to be discussed is given to all Members in writing.

b) The Secretary, on receipt of a notice signed by not less than thirty Members, giving not less than one month's notice requesting the meeting, together with a written statement of the matter to be discussed.

Each Member present at the meeting shall be entitled to one vote. Voting will be by simple majority, except for alteration of the Constitution.

12. Officers

The Association Officers shall consist of Chairman / Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. They shall be elected at the A.G.M. for a term of one year. At least two of the Officers must be ex-employees of Dow Corning Ltd., Midland Silicones Ltd. or Albright & Wilson Ltd.

13. Management Committee

The Management Committee shall consist of four Members elected at the A.G.M. for a term of one year, and one liaison Member ~~nominated by Dow Corning Ltd. management.~~ The Management Committee, hereinafter referred to as 'the Committee', shall:

a) Consider itself as having a quorum if two Officers and two Members are present.

b) Have the power to co-opt Members of the Association as it may deem necessary.

c) Have the authority to set up sub-committees and to delegate to those sub-committees such power and responsibilities as is deemed necessary, also to disband these sub-committees as required.

d) Be responsible for carrying out the objectives of the Association by managing its affairs in a right and proper manner.

e) Not having the power to dispose of the Association funds except for normal expenditure.

14. Finance

a) Lloyds TSB Bank Plc is to be used for Association funds.

b) All cheques must be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by either the Chairman or Secretary.

c) The Treasurer is responsible for the receipt of all monies belonging to the Association and will keep a record of all transactions, and will prepare an annual statement of Income and Expenditure and Balance Sheet for approval at the A.G.M.

d) An independent audit of the accounts shall be carried out annually.

15. Payments to Officers, Committee Members and Shop Helpers

a) ~~Subject to the approval of Members of the Association, honoraria payments may be made to the Officers and members of Committees. The amount of such payments shall be recommended by the Officers to the Members at the A.G.M. and voted by a show of hands.~~

b) ~~Subject to the approval of Members of the Association, fixed amounts may be paid to helpers at the Site shop, as a contribution towards lunch and travel expenses.~~

~~Relief Manager is paid by Dow Corning. Payments will be made quarterly. In April, July, October and January.~~



16. Alteration to the Constitution

Any alteration to this Constitution may only be made with the approval of:

a) An Annual General Meeting, providing that not less than one month's notice of the proposed alteration is given in writing to the Secretary.

b) An Extraordinary General Meeting called in accordance with rule 11 a) or 11 b).

There shall be one vote per Member present at the meeting. Voting will be by 2/3rds (two thirds) majority.

No voting to amend the Constitution shall take place unless a minimum of 20 Members is present.

17. Dissolution

Dissolution of the Association shall be agreed at the A.G.M. Or at an Extraordinary General Meeting called in accordance with rule 11 a) or 11 b).

Approval of dissolution shall be by 2/3rds (two thirds) majority.

If it is decided to discontinue the work of the Association, after payment of expenses and liabilities, any money remaining shall be donated to charities agreed by the Members by a simple majority.

18. Date of Adoption of and Amendments to the Constitution

Original Constitution	Amendments
September 1983	December 1983
	September 1984
	February 1988
	September 1991
	November 1995
	September 2002
	September 2012
	September 2013

The most recent constitutional amendments that was approved by voters came in the September 2013 AGM, when voters approved a change to item 8 Subscriptions changing the month of payment from October to January.

The other approved alteration was to item 15 (b) adding Relief Manager is paid by Dow Corning and payments will be made quarterly. In April, July, October and January.



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