

SPOKES Annual General Meeting



Date: 18 June 2022 **Venue:** Colline's Kitchen

Present: Rob Borthwick (RB)
Kevin Bushell (KB)
Ed Cooper (EC)
Caroline Lane (CL)
Gordon Oliver (GO)
William Pitt (WP)
Paul Rumsby (PR)
Clive Tombs (CT)

Ref	Item	Action
1.	Apologies Received <ul style="list-style-type: none">Apologies had been received from Josh Kerry, Angela McMahon and Mike Butler.	
2.	Review of Minutes of 2021 AGM and Matters Arising <ul style="list-style-type: none">The Minutes of the preceding AGM held on 27 June 2021 were agreed.It was noted that Paul still had not received any promotional posters.	
3.	Reports from Officers <ul style="list-style-type: none">Chair, CL: It has been a good year – Spokes had worked with West Berkshire Council and the Parish Councils to make progress on the Eling Way scheme, it had lobbied for highway improvements, and it had offered to contribute to the next phase of the towpath scheme to the east of Ham Bridge.Secretary: This position had remained vacant throughout 2021/22.Membership Secretary, PR: Membership had increased over the year from 148 to 167, with an average of 1-2 new members per month.Treasurer, EC: Spokes funds had increased from £9,300 to £10,900 and there was a need to find suitable projects to allocate the money to. £2,000 had been allocated to the towpath improvements, but this may not be required now the Good Exchange had dispensed with its fees. The next phase of the Eling Way was considered to be the most likely scheme to come forward. A risk was highlighted that West Berkshire Council may stop paying for the cycle counts. It was noted that the Council was running a pilot with automatic camera counters in Thatcham. However, CT indicated that some sites were too remote for cameras and the equipment was costly. It was noted that Spokes was struggling to find enough people to undertake	

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	the counts. EC to check if William had been paid for Cycling UK insurance.	EC
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highways Officer: It was noted that Stuart Gourley had resigned from the Spokes Committee; ▪ Events Manager / Vice Chair, WP: Numbers on the social bike rides had recovered after lockdown, but were still slightly down on previous years. There had been some debate about 'leading from the back', which was considered more suitable for novice cyclists, and it had been decided to pay the additional insurance premium required to permit leading from the front. It was noted that Steve Fretwell was currently unable to lead bike rides and Gordon had decided to drop out of ride leading duties. Spokes had been asked to lead some rides during Greenfest, but William was not available. Requests had also been received to support Thatcham Family Fun Day and a West Berkshire Council event at Northcroft. ▪ Website Editor, GO: Spokes had moved its website to Eco Hosting, which was significantly cheaper than iPage and uptime appeared much better. It was recommended that Spokes remain with Eco Hosting for the coming year. Backups were provided by Eco Hosting with a separate weekly backup to a cloud storage facility. Content had been updated throughout the year, but frequency of updates was low. All Spokes committee members had their own email accounts. ▪ Cycle Counts, RB: All counts had been completed, but each time it was a struggle to find enough people to do them. There was a need to find ways to encourage new people (e.g. ask those attending the bike rides). ▪ Training, CL: Caroline reported that the novice ladies' group had been set up, but then had fairly quickly petered out. 	
4.	Review of Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The proposed changes were approved, including changing the list of committee members to include the Publicity Officer and correction of minor typos. ▪ A further change was proposed to 1.6.1 e) such that election of committee members would be by a simple majority of those members present. This was approved. ▪ Another minor change was proposed to 1.4.1 to replace 'consist of' with 'include'. ▪ It was noted that the Constitution also needed to be amended to delete the general campaigners from the list of committee members as agreed at the previous AGM. 	GO

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5.	Confirmation of Required Officers' Roles for Committee	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ All current roles were up for re-election. 	
6.	Election of Spokes Committee	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Election to the Spokes Committee roles was as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Chair – Caroline Lane; – Vice-Chair – William Pitt – Secretary – vacant; – Membership Secretary – Paul Rumsby; – Treasurer – Ed Cooper; – Highways Officer – vacant; – Cycle Count Co-ordinator – Rob Borthwick; – Events Manager/Rides Co-ordinator – William Pitt; – Website Editor – vacant; – Training Officer – Caroline Lane; – Publicity Officer – Josh Kerry 	
7.	Motions for Debate	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ It was agreed that Spokes should continue to bank with Metro Bank. ■ Priorities for investing Spokes funds were agreed as the Eling Way and K&A towpath improvements. ■ KB asked if Spokes got the same amount for the cycle counts each time. It was confirmed that payment was on a per-site basis. If all sites were covered then the payment would be the same each time. ■ KB asked about issues with discontinuity of data. RB confirmed that there were no issues. ■ KB asked if the Council used the data. CT confirmed that the data was used by the Highways Service. 	
8.	Date of next AGM	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ To be arranged for June 2023. 	
9.	Any Other Business	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ KB asked if Spokes had a stock of jerseys. It was confirmed that a bulk purchase had been made, but there were limited numbers left. ■ It was noted that Angela McMahon had been doing the cycle counts since Spokes had first been commissioned. However, she had indicated that she would no longer be doing them. It was agreed that a gift would be 	

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	purchased as a thank you. PR to send address to CL.	CL/PR
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CL indicated that she would be unable to continue to represent Spokes at the Cycle Forum. WP offered to attend. 	WP