MINUTES OF THE CYCLEWIGHT AGM 2026

Date: 25 September 2026
Venue: Unity Hall, Newport and Zoom
Present: 31 members and 6 on Zoom
Apologies: Helen Jones, Matt Whitaker, Derrick Coffee, Dougie Saunders, John Dear, John Law, Brenda Reeves

Chairperson's Report

The Chair (Tim Thorne) presented a report and highlighted some of the work of the last year including the Biosphere Ride at Sandown, Newport Day and Go Electric on Newport Quay.

The key points from the report were:

- We have received a clear message from the Highways Department at the Isle of Wight Council (IWC) about how to proceed when cyclists are faced with a Road Closed sign. This has been very helpful, and the statement is now permanently on display on the CycleWight website.

- The upgrading of the Wootton to Belmont Lane path has been very pleasing with a good quality surface which should be accessible at all times of the year.

- The meeting between the new Councillors and CycleWight, which took place in July, went well and although only 5 Councillors attended, much interesting information was gleaned and imparted.

- We have commented on 3 planning applications. These were for Harvey Brown, and housing developments at Colwell and Rookley.

- There has been some progress regarding the speed limit near the crossing on the A3056 near the Fighting Cocks public house. CycleWight have campaigned for a lowering of the speed limit at this junction for some time and have gained local and IWC support for the proposal. We are now investigating ways to ensure that this happens in the near future.

- We are attempting to organise regular Dr Bike sessions for schools running the Bikeability programme to encourage more students to enrol, and we have run two sessions so far. Any adult volunteers to assist with this would be most welcome.

- Active Travel England has now issued guidelines for rural route design and this we are hoping will help in future projects. Several members of the CycleWight committee are attending online webinars in October on this.

- The Transport Strategy Officer at IWC continues to make good progress with various bids linked to obtaining funding from a variety of sources for further improvements to the cycling and walking network.

- The poor quality and lack of maintenance of parts of the cycle network still remains a concern and we continue to pursue various avenues for a resolution to this issue.

- The 'Think Bike' signs have become a victim of the dispute between Island Roads and the Council and the installation of additional signs is currently being delayed.

- The Island Green Link has another 18 months left before the Government imposed deadline. The Committee has met the project manager on several occasions throughout the year as there is some progress, but in our opinion more needs to be done to speed things up. We are trying to urge the Council to put more resources into the project to ensure that the funds are not returned to the Department for Transport. It would appear that somewhere in the region of £1 million has been spent so far which leaves another £12 million to be allocated.*

Other Business

A period for questions then followed with most being about the Island Green Link.

CycleWight are still members of Cycling UK and the Local Access Forum.

The AGM then adjourned for refreshments. After the break a video was shown from the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust (formerly Sustrans) which was a celebration about its 30 years of existence. It was a fascinating insight given by John Grimshaw who founded the organisation.

The raffle took place and raised £51 for CycleWight funds.

The Chair thanked all of those who had attended, and those who had provided prizes as well as Val and Alec for their hard work providing the refreshments.

The meeting ended at 21.40

*The Head of Regeneration who leads on the Island Green Link clarified on 28 September 2026 that DfT funding must be committed by the end of March 2029, although works may continue beyond that date. The Council is keen to commit as much of the grant as possible sooner.