

SOUTH SOMERSET GROUP

of THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION



Minutes of the 52nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on November 6th 2021 at 2.00 pm at Tintinhull Village Hall.

Present: Jim Turner (Chair) and 21 other members.

1) Apologies : Julie Smith

2) Minutes of the AGM held on 14th November 2020

The minutes were approved.

3) Matters Arising

There were none.

4) Chairman's Report

Jim Turner thanked the attendees for their support and said it was good to see that the popularity of the AGM had not diminished.

He thanked all those whose efforts make the Group function, the Committee and walk leaders.

He took the opportunity to thank Roger Cripps and Ruth Goodland both of whom are standing down from their roles in the group and said they would be hard acts to follow.

He agreed with the previous Chairman that it has been a difficult period to negotiate but we are coming out of it now and hopefully the number attending walks will pick up. He informed the meeting that there are changes on the way from Ramblers HQ which will affect the way things are organised. It appears to be an attempt to modernise and rebrand Ramblers.

5) Secretary's report

My last AGM report commented on the fact that Covid-19 was the apparent cause of a year of comparative inactivity. Unfortunately, in this our 52nd Group AGM Covid-19 is still with us but we are beginning to live with it. Partly as a result of this we are now meeting for this AGM in Tintinhull rather than our base for the past few years at East Coker. My report this time is short because in the previous couple of months Bill Tregillus has become our Membership Secretary.

6) Treasurer's Report

The annual accounts for the year ending 30 September 2021 signed by the independent examiner have been circulated with the agenda.

With no publication of the Somerset Ramblers' Newsletter this year and no working parties due to Covid, together with the decision to send the walk programme by email and not by post our expenditure this year has been considerably curtailed resulting in a very healthy end of year balance of £1121.82. The South Somerset Ramblers' Group made a donation of £50 (together with £270 donated by individual South Somerset Group

members and a further £300 from the other Somerset Ramblers' Groups and Somerset Area) towards the memorial bench seat for Carl Earl, installed in Wayford Woods.

Our income from Ramblers Head Office for this coming year will be based on our head count and is anticipated to be in the order of £320 which will exceed our anticipated expenditure.

A question from the floor was why had the Group donated to a memorial bench for one deceased member and not another (John Oliver was mentioned specifically who died this past year and had been a committee member, organised Group holidays, and led many walks over a long period). It was pointed out that the Sunday walkers had instigated the process and donated a significant amount.

The treasurer agreed to investigate if the club was able to fund memorial plaques to commemorate recently deceased Group members who had made a significant contribution to the Group over a number of years. (The treasurer has subsequently confirmed that the Group is allowed to make a donation of £25 from the main funds and £25 from the self-funded fund for such memorials)

The accounts are available as an attachment to these minutes

7) Programme Secretaries' Reports

Phil Bradshaw reported that he has struggled to get enough leaders to put on 2 Thursday walks every week all though the next programme. However, there is certainly one walk every week.

Offers were made to assist anyone considering leading with map reading and risk assessments.

Bill Tregillus, Membership Secretary suggested the age profile of our group may contribute to lack of leader: 15% age 80+, 32% age 70 - 79, 15% age 60-69 with only 5% under 60. Age unknown for the remaining 31%.

Martin Pakes raised the issue as to whether the presentation of our online walks programme can be improved. Another factor raised was the need for walk leaders to commit to a date up to 5 months before the walk. It was thought that if we could rely on using the website for the walk programme then walk leaders would only need to commit for about 2 months which might encourage more members to lead a walk.

The Committee will look at what other groups do.

No other reports submitted.

8) Footpath Secretaries' Reports.

Stuart Thomson explained the changes to the footpaths affected by the proposed dualling of the A358. The plan is open for consultation currently and Stuart has produced a report which will form part of Areas submission.

There was a unanimous vote in support of the comments Stuart had made on the plan.

No other reports received.

9) Publicity Officer's Report

Wendy Yates thanked Ruth Goodland for all the hard work she has put in over the years.

Wendy also thanked all those that had generously baked cakes for the after-meeting tea.

10) Election of officers for the Coming Year

The following existing officers are understood to be willing to serve in their present capacity for the coming year:-

Current Officer

Chairperson

Jim Turner

Secretary

Ian Rendall

Treasurer	Stuart Thomson
Prog. Secty. for longer (C) Walks	Vacant
Prog. Secty. for shorter (D) Walks	Phil Bradshaw
Prog. Secty. for Weekend Walks	Jean Verkroost
Programme Coordinator	Martin Pakes
Membership Secretary	Bill Tregillus
Footpath Secretary – North	Jean Verkroost
Footpath Secretary - East	Phil Bradshaw
Footpath Secretary - South	Peter Milligan
Footpath Secretary- West	Vacant.
Publicity Officer	Wendy Yates .
Working Party Organizer	Vacant
Minutes Secretary	Vacant
Committee Members	Rosie Arampatta
	John Day
	Maureen Day
	Maggie Owers
	Lynne Reece

11) Election of a Committee

No nominations had been forthcoming and it was proposed that the current Committee be re-elected en bloc. There was a unanimous vote to re-elect the Committee.

There are still outstanding vacancies for a footpath secretary West as Stuart Thomson is only acting temporarily in that position – he has agreed to act as Footpath Secretary until a permanent volunteer can be found. There is also a vacancy for a minutes secretary. There were no nominations from the floor to fill these positions.

12) Appointment of 2 delegates to the Area Group.

There were no volunteers for either of these positions. The Chairman will fill one of these roles

13) Appointment of an Independent Accounts Verifier

Mr. Peter Bradford, the current verifier is willing to continue for a further year. This was fully supported by the meeting.

14) Matters for Discussion as Notified

None received.

15) Any Other Business

A request as to whether as a Group we could sponsor route markers for Ham Hill was raised. There was general support for this but the Treasurer will check the financial rules. (The treasurer has subsequently confirmed that the Group can fund these route markers).

16) Date, Time and Venue for Next AGM.

November 5th 2022 at 2.00 pm at Tintinhull Village Hall.