

SOUTH SOMERSET GROUP

of THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION



Minutes of the 51st ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Which was held as a Virtual Zoom Meeting (due to Covid 19 restrictions) hosted by Stuart Thomson on Saturday, 14th November 2020 at 2.00 pm.

Present:

Roger Cripps (Acting Chairman) and 14 members

It was agreed before the meeting that, in view of the Zoom format, items would not be proposed or seconded the only exception being finances.

- 1) **Apologies**
Tom Tremlett, Tony Prior, Barbara Harper, Peter Leavold
- 2) **Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting**
The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd. November 2019 were unanimously approved.
- 3) **Matters arising** from the minutes of the last AGM.
There were none.
- 4) **Chairman's report:**
.Acting Chair Roger Cripps gave thanks to all who attended the meeting, to StuartThomson for organizing and hosting this Zoom meeting; to JohnDay for stepping in as Minutes Secretary; to all Walks and Programme coordinators, Walks Leaders and Footpath Secretaries for their efforts over the past year.
To Ruth Goodland for arranging the Christmas Lunch and handling most of the email communications.
I must also thank the retiring Acting Chair David Fawthrop and Minutes Secretary Linda Fawthrop for all their work over the years and hosting the meetings at their home.
Also June Curtis who is stepping down from coordinating the C walks and Phil Bradshaw who has taken on June's role temporarily.
Martin Pakes must also be thanked for taking the role of Programme Coordinator and Jean Verkroost who handles the Web site so well.

An unusual year – from November to March, business as usual; a full Programme of walks and a successful Christmas Lunch but from then on, of course, things all changed with the first nationwide lockdown. All activities stopped and some months passed before the rules were eased a little.

At this point some of the other Somerset groups decided to restart their walking activities but in a modified form.

This committee decided, that with so much uncertainty, not to restart the walking programme until January.

Ramblers Head Office also imposed many new rules (new to us anyway) which further confused things.

But now, we have a new programme worked out with all the new rules and we are ready to start again in January as planned.

Unfortunately, we have had to cancel the Summer Supper and this year's Christmas Lunch.

AS well as resignations , sadly, we have lost two valued committee members, John Oliver who led many walks and arranged several group holidays at home and abroad and Carl Earl who was our Area Representative as well as Area Footpath Secretary acting for all Somerset Groups and organizing the working parties.

They will both be greatly missed.

We all hope for a return to normality next year.

5) **Secretary's report**

This year, up to the 51st AGM, has passed with comparatively little secretarial business . Covid-19 has, no doubt, been largely responsible for this and the resultant inactivity.

Ramblers Central Office has brought into operation its new computer system to which individual Areas and Groups can get access for their own particular sections. Central Office no longer send membership secretaries changes in their membership details by email and we are now expected to help ourselves to information from our section of the main computer. In some respects and as far as I can see, my database for this Group is more adaptable than that of Central Office once I have updates in the information.

Regarding our membership; last year the figure I gave at the AGM was 261. The latest figure I have from the new computer system is 237.

A little bit of good news is that I understand the RA is maintaining the current rates of subscription until next September.

6) **Treasurer's report**

The Group's finances are in a healthy state. We finished the financial year on 30 Sept with a total balance of £829.99. This is made up of £739.99 in the main account and £90 in the self-funded account (from monies received from RWH Travel).

The year-end accounts have been independently examined and approved by Peter Bradford and submitted to the Area Treasurer. Since the start of this financial year we have made a donation of £50 (£25 from main account and £25 from self-funded account) to the Area towards a memorial for Carl Earl; it is hoped that all 4 of the Somerset Rambler Groups plus Area will make a similar donation.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by Phil Bradshaw and carried unanimously.

- 7) **Programme Secretaries' reports:-**
 There were no reports. Phil Bradshaw commented that the formats for the walks has been amended. As June Curtis is standing down at the year end, Phil Bradshaw will be co-ordinate both C and D walks. However, there are fewer walk leaders and as a result in some weeks there is only one walk.
- The Chairman thanked Martin Pakes for co-ordinating the reports into the form of our published programmes.
- 8) **Footpath Secretaries' reports –**
 There were none.
 Area Chair Les Stather of the Mendip Group has taken on Carl Earl's Role as Area Footpath Secretary and will act for all Somerset groups.
- 9) **Publicity Officer's report**
 Wendy said that there was little to report. Programmes are distributed to Tourist Offices in the surrounding area, Yeovil Library, outdoor wear and sports shops. We would have to decide whether this practice is beneficial or not for future programme production should we decide not to have a printed programme .
- 10) **Election of Officers for the coming year.**
 In line with the statement at the beginning of these Minutes, there will be no proposer or seconder provided the attendees at the meeting are in agreement. Therefore the following existing officers who are willing to serve in their present capacity for the coming year are re-elected.

Chairperson	<i>Vacant</i>
Secretary	Ian Rendall
Treasurer	Stuart Thomson
Prog. Secty. for longer (C) Walks	Phil Bradshaw
Prog. Secty. for shorter (D) Walks	Phil Bradshaw
Prog. Secty. for Weekend Walks	Jean Verkroost
Programme Coordinator	Martin Pakes .
Footpath Secretary North	Jean Verkroost
" " East	Phil Bradshaw
" " South	Peter Milligan .
" " West	Roger Cripps
Publicity Officer	Wendy Yates
Minutes Secretary	<i>Vacant</i> .
Committee Members	Phil Bradshaw, Roger Cripps, Peter Milligan, Martin Pakes, Ian Rendall, Stuart Thomson and Wendy Yates

The next committee meeting will be a Zoom meeting on 11th.February 2021.

- 11) This meeting is seeking to consolidate the committee with a further two or three to a total of ten or eleven members. Currently there are seven members: Phil Bradshaw, Roger Cripps, Peter Milligan, Martin Pakes, Ian

Rendall, Stuart Thomson and Wendy Yates.(The new Chairperson/s will automatically be on the Committee, thus leaving vacancies for 2 or 3 members.)

- 12) **Appointment of 2 delegates** that are required for the Group to the governing body of Somerset Area whose constitution currently requires a minimum of 2 representatives. (At present there two vacancies for representatives of this Group on Area)
- 13) **Appointment of an Independent Accounts Verifier** for the Group for the coming year. (Mr. Peter Bradford, the current holder of this position is willing to continue for the forthcoming year.)
Phil Bradshaw proposed and John Day seconded that Peter Bradford be appointed. Unanimous agreement.
- 14) **Matters for discussion as notified**, prior to the meeting, to the Secretary:-
None have been received.
- 15) **Any other business:-**
 - (a) Opportunity for comment on behalf of the Sunday Walkers by a Sunday walker attending this meeting.
Donations for the Carl Earl Memorial can either be given to Stuart Thomson or Roger Cripps.
 - (b) An update from Roger Cripps on the operations of the Working Party Group and on the Footpath Surveys carried out.
Currently there is no working party as there is no organiser but footpath Surveys continue.
- 16) **Date of next Annual General Meeting.**
Saturday 6th.November 2021.venue TBA.

John Day
14th November 2021