

# SOUTH SOMERSET GROUP

of THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION



## MINUTES OF THE 53<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Held on 5 November 2022 at 2pm at Tintinhull Village Hall

Present: Jim Turner, Phil Bradshaw, Bill Tregillus, Martin Pakes, Jean Pakes, Wendy Yates, Katherine Pratt, Linda Fawthrop, David Fawthrop, Richard Yates, Peter Milligan, Maggie Owers, Maureen Day, John Day, June Curtis, Brian Curtis, Marian Pattison

1. **Apologies:** Peter Bradford, Ian Rendall, Ruth Goodland, Tony Prior and Derek Patteson
2. **Minutes of the AGM held on 6 November 2021** – it was requested that a small correction be made to the last minutes. It was asked if a change could be made stating that a memorial seat was requested by area rather than Sunday walkers. This correction was approved. The 2021 minutes were approved.
3. **Matters Arising** - it was requested that a small correction be made to the last minutes. It was asked if a change could be made stating that a memorial seat was requested by area rather than Sunday walkers
4. **Chairman's Report** – Jim welcomed all members and noted that numbers at the meeting were slightly down on last year. He paid tribute to Stuart Thomson, who sadly passed away recently. He will be greatly missed. Ian Rendell is currently ill in hospital and we wish him well and hope for a speedy recovery. Jim reported that we are now getting back to normal after covid restrictions. The Sunday walking numbers have decreased to around 8-10 per walk. Despite this, all of the Sunday programme has been filled.

The need for risk assessment was discussed. The Trustees are still considering what action to take on this matter and advise we should continue to use risk assessments and the template can be used for this purpose.

5. **Secretary's Report** – Katherine explained that Ian was intending to give the report but was ill so unable to do so. She stated that she is talking to area to discuss regarding setting up a South Somerset Facebook group. This would be used to promote walks, show photographs of previous walks etc. All members are welcome to post on the sight. She explained that permission would be sought before any

photographs of walkers were used on the site. The Facebook group is being set up to try and encourage more members to join and become involved. Jim stated that the Norwich Ramblers use Facebook to promote their walks and numbers have risen regularly since they have done so.

6. **Treasurer's Report** – The treasurer's role is currently vacant so Jim gave a brief summary of the accounts. We currently have a healthy balance of £1290.75. There is one payment of £91 outstanding and a credit due from head office. The accounts were examined by Peter Bradford on 22.10.22 and have been approved.
7. **Programme Secretary's Report** – Phil reported that the next programme, up until March 2023, has 22 walks. This means that there will be at least one walk per week. However, several people are leading multiple walks and we really need more walk leaders. Katherine stated that she had recently become a walk leader and found the Ramblers free webinar for walk leaders was very helpful. These are run regularly.

This was Phil's last programme as he is stepping down from the role. A huge thank you to him for all of his hard work. John Day has now offered to take over as programme secretary.

Peter Bradford was unable to attend but passed on a report to say the following: we have provided a full programme of all day Sunday walks over the last year. Two of our long-term leaders have unfortunately needed to stop leading because of ill health but we are fortunate to have had two newer walkers start leading. We are therefore planning for a full programme of walks for the coming year

Martin Pakes co-ordinates the reports into the form of our published programme. He questioned whether we still needed a programme, bearing in mind that people tend to look online for their information. It was decided that a lot of members still like to print the programme so it will be kept under review but we will continue in the present format at present.

8. **Footpath Secretary's Report** – Nothing to report. West is still vacant.
9. **Publicity Officer's Report** – Wendy explained that her role now relates more to social secretary, as she is organizing events such as the Christmas lunch. It was agreed that the role title will be changed to Social Secretary.
10. **Membership Report** – Bill reported that there were 234 members last year, compared with 227 this year, so numbers are slightly down. There have been 7 new members who have joined in the past month. The average age of South Somerset ramblers is 70-71. It was discussed if we could do some shorter walks to encourage more people. When signing up to the Ramblers, not everyone gives consent to be contacted by e mail, currently only 66%. This means that they do not receive any e mails from the group. Members need to change their e mail preferences if they would like to receive e mails in future.

## **11. Election of Office for the Coming Year.**

An elected Chairperson will automatically become an officer of the Group

Receive nominations for any officer from the floor

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

|                     | <b>Current Officer</b>                  | <b>Proposer</b> | <b>Seconders</b> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Chairperson         | Jim Turner                              | Wendy Yates     | Bill Tregillus   |
| Secretary           | Katherine Pratt                         | Jim Turner      | David            |
| Treasurer           | Currently Vacant<br>Bill Pratt Proposed | Jim Turner      | Phil Bradshaw    |
| Programme Secretary | John Day proposed                       | Phil Bradshaw   | Katherine Pratt  |

|                         |                 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Other Committee Members | Rosie Arampatta |
| “ “                     | John Day        |
| “ “                     | Maureen Day     |
|                         | Phil Bradshaw   |
|                         | Bill Tregillus  |
|                         | Wendy Yates     |
|                         | Martin Pakes    |
|                         | Peter Milligan  |

The role of working party organizer will be deleted.

- 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.)
- 14 **Any other business:-** It was noted that since the last AGM, as well as Stuart Thomson, we have also lost Roger Cripps.
- 15, **Date and Time of Next AGM** - The next meeting will be held on 4 November 2023 at 2pm at Tintinhull Village Hall

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The key subjects that Area deal with are (for your information) :-

1. Ensuring Groups get their funding from Head Office. This does not require a formal meeting. The Area Treasurer, Robin Downton, deals with this with each individual group.
2. Co-ordination of Footpath Issues. This is carried out by the Area Footpath Officer, who works with all the groups footpath officers and runs an annual meeting for these footpath officers to share their knowledge. They are creating a section on the Somerset Area web site to assist Group Footpath Officers in their role.
3. Publicity is carried out at both Area and Group Level but there seems to be no need to co-ordinate this. If anyone has any ideas about any items for publicity then please let Les Stather (Somerset Area Chairman) know as he has a contact in Radio Somerset.
4. Voting on motions at General Council. It is proposed that these are circulated to area representatives and comments requested.
5. The Area Holiday is organised by the Area Holiday Organiser and does not require formal meetings.

An annual Area Council Meeting will take place on the day of the AGM between the end of the morning walk and the start of the AGM.

Any area representative can contact the area secretary or chair and request a formal meeting to take place to discuss a specific matter. This could be either a face to face meeting or an electronic meeting.

4.

Note: Travel Directions and Map

Travelling from the north east on the A303 leave for Tintinhull via Queen Street: St. Margarets Road, and into Vicarage Street. The Village Hall is on the right.

Travelling from the south west on the A303 leave for Tintinhull via Head Street. At the point where Head St. changes to Yeovil Road, turn left up Vicarage Street. The Hall will be on the left.

