

Minutes of committee meeting 7pm Thursday 1 July 2021 at East Coker village hall.

Present

Jim Turner
Stuart Thomson (Treasurer)
Ian Rendell (Hon. Secretary)
Roger Cripps
Phil Bradshaw
Wendy Yates
Martin Pakes
Lynne Reece
Maggie Owers
Ruth Goodland (Non committee member attending)

Apologies for absence

Peter Milligan
Rosie Arampatta
John Day
Maureen Day

Introductions

Stuart Thomson chaired the meeting as agreed at the previous committee meeting. In the absence of any volunteer, he also agreed to write the minutes for the meeting. Roger C advised that he was hoping that John Day would take the minutes in future.

The committee took a moment to introduce themselves as there was a number of new committee members attending for the first time.

Minutes of the last Zoom Committee Meeting 11 February 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February were approved by the Committee.

Matters arising

Ruth confirmed that the Summer lunch has been cancelled due to Covid19.

It is not anticipated that the "Somerset Ramblers" Newsletter will be produced for printing in the near future. There has still not been any offers from members to submit text but this will be left in abeyance until more is known about the future of the Newsletter.

Chairman's report

No specific report as everything is covered under other agenda items.

Treasurer's report July 2021

See attached set of accounts for details of our balance sheet as at 26 June 2021. The Treasurer, Stuart Thomson, reported that the Group's finances are in a healthy state with a balance of £1037. The balance of all the monies collected for Carl Earl's memorial seat has now been paid out to Wayford Woods. Roger C confirmed that the memorial bench seat had been installed in Wayford Woods.

The Group continues to receive quarterly payment of £84 from Ramblers HO based on the Group's membership headcount. Since the Group has a health balance it was agreed that we would not submit a budget for additional funds for next year.

Stuart reminded all committee members to submit any expense claims by the end of August for them to be included in this year's accounts.

Secretary's Report

(From report submitted by the secretary to committee members prior to the meeting).

Letters / E-mails received.

No correspondence has been received during the period since the last committee meeting apart from:-

- (a) Periodic reminders from Ramblers Walking Holidays of their existence and that holidays are available and
- (b) A message from Joy, the coordinator for Wessex Wanderers Railway Walks, telephone 0117 9334998. She says they are celebrating 25 years of railway walks and hopes to hear from any of our members to ask for details; although these are on the internet this year and not in a paper copy.

Membership:-

The total membership of the South Somerset Group stated by the Central Office as at 28th. June 2021 is 228. Last February the figure given was 231.

Despite the Covid 19 problems there are still a small number of new members joining.

Reports from Programme Secretaries

Sunday walks. Jim Turner advised that Jean Verkroost has managed to produce a full programme of walks.

Thursday walks. Phil Bradshaw advised that he had produced a walk programme of 32 walks of a possible 34 (ie 2 walks each Thursday) for the Aug – Nov programme. He advised that just 6 walk leaders led the vast majority of the walks and it was difficult to find new walk leaders. Discussion on various reasons considered the Risk Assessment form and record keeping to be a factor. Jim Turner advised that the Risk Assessment form was a RA requirement as part of the insurance cover and should still be done post Covid.

Phil advised that he would coordinate two walks per week for the Dec 2021– Mar 2022 programmes on the basis that he would be proactive for one walk and rely on volunteers for a second walk. He will continue to send out the previous year's list of walk leaders in the hope that leaders would volunteer for the coming programme.

He was happy to continue to beyond March 2022 for one set of walks but reiterated that we will need to find a new programme secretary for the second walk.

After lengthy discussion on benefits of identifying walks as C or D it was decided that on balance we would keep the classification although at times it was difficult to classify a walk. Committee agreed for Martin to use his best judgement in classifying a walk (in the absence of the walk leader specifying it) when preparing the programme.

Walk Programmes

It is possible that when the Covid restrictions are lifted on July 19 the limit on walking numbers, the need to pre-book with the walk leader and the requirement to maintain a register of walkers may be removed. It was agreed that the issue of the Aug - Nov programme be delayed until any new requirements are known. Martin will adjust the wording on Covid related notices in the walk programme accordingly.

The committee agreed that there should not be a limit set on number of walkers on a walk post the Covid restrictions.

Programme distribution

Lengthy discussion took place on how the programme should be distributed. It was agreed that the Aug – Nov programme would be sent by email to the list maintained by Ruth Goodland. Future programmes will only be available on the RA website. Martin to include a suitable note in the next programme advising all members of this decision and advising members how to access the programme on the website. Ruth G to also include such a note in the email she sends with the Aug – Nov programme. No adverse comments had been received about the lack of a printed programme over this past year.

It was pointed out that the walk programme was currently difficult to find on the website, Jim T said that Jean V has spoken with Les Stather and it was because they had not been put on the RA National Walks List. Jim will speak with Jean Verkroost to resolve the issue. NB subsequent to the meeting Jim T has confirmed he has spoken with Jean V and the problem will be resolved with the issue of the next programme.

It was agreed that the few known members (especially walk leaders) who did not have access to the internet would need to be sent a paper copy of the programme. Phil B advised he was already doing this.

Roger C expressed concern that a large number of the membership who do not walk with the Group but who have previously received a paper copy of the programme in the post would lose contact and maybe stop paying their subscriptions. It was agreed that we would keep this under consideration and that if a Newsletter was produced in the future we could include a note about our plans for accessing the programme via the RA website.

Mailing lists

Ruth advised that she did not wish to continue to have to maintain her email list and that we should use the membership database list supplied by RA HO. Using the information Ian provided from the data base, there were 129 authorised contacts at 115 addresses (some joint). Only 66 of these are covered by Ruth. Cross checking the remaining names on her list with the membership identified just 15 members not covered by the Ramblers data base.

Jim T agreed to contact the RA HO to find out how we could convert the spreadsheet listing into an email mailing list for contacting the Group's members.

Ian R advised that he will be cutting down on the walks he does and that we should be looking for someone else to look after the proposed new membership mailing list.

Reports from Footpath Secretaries

East (P Bradshaw) - nothing to report, however, Phil reiterated his previous comment that he was encouraged by the way Les Stather had picked up Carl Earl's Area Footpath responsibilities and will continue to maintain regular contact with him.

South (P Milligan)-

Peter had sent an email with the following comments:

Path 2/19 Barwick runs from Rexe's Hollow through the school to Stoford has been closed for a few years. Is there anything that can be done to resolve this issue?

Path 9/26 East Coker runs from Darvole to East Coker and it is not on the line shown on the OS and Definitive maps, also, although there are multiple stiles and gates along the path there are no assets shown on the map.

An interesting one – there is a tunnel under the A30 at Easthams Bridge where both Monarch's Way and the Parrett Trail cross. The tunnel has been blocked for years which is a great shame as it would be used quite a lot for access to the aforementioned trails.

North (J Verkroost)-nothing to report

West (R Cripps)- nothing to report

Working Party

Roger Cripps advised that there was no interest from members to maintain the Working Party. It was agreed that Roger could distribute the Group's working tools to other local Ramblers' Groups, the Mendips Group was highlighted as being especially proactive in the South Somerset Area.

Publicity Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

Any other Business

Future working arrangements. It was agreed that future committee meetings would be held at the East Coker village hall.

AGM. It was confirmed that the AGM would be on Saturday 6 November at 2 pm. Jim T agreed to contact Derek Lucas with a view to him leading a morning walk. Jim agreed to report to Martin to get the walk details included in the next programme.

All members attending the committee confirmed that they agree to their names being included in these minutes.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Date of Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 14 October 2021 at 7pm East Coker village hall

South Somerset Ramblers Group Accounts 2020/21 as at 27/6/2021
Opening balance 1 October 2020

Main account £739.99
Self funded £90.00
Total balance £829.99

INCOME				
Date	Folio No	Source	Amount	Total
21/10/2020	BACS	RA Allocation	£87.42	£87.42
27/10/2020	BACS	E Coker VH booking fee refund	£30.00	£30.00
18/11/2020	Cheque	Derek Lucas	£25.00	£25.00
19/11/2020	Cheque	Jeon Verkrust	£25.00	£25.00
19/11/2020	BACS	L Oakerbee	£15.00	£15.00
27/11/2020	BACS	R Cripps	£25.00	£25.00
30/11/2020	BACS	Ian Williamson	£5.00	£5.00
30/11/2020	BACS	James Turner	£5.00	£5.00
30/11/2020	BACS	Mike Peach (RL Brown)	£10.00	£10.00
30/11/2020	BACS	Julia Smith	£5.00	£5.00
30/11/2020	BACS	Peter Bradford & Nicola Washington	£10.00	£10.00
30/11/2020	BACS	M Reed	£10.00	£10.00
30/11/2020	BACS	S Buxton	£30.00	£30.00
30/11/2020	Cheque	C Anscomb	£10.00	£10.00
01/12/2020	BACS	P Milligan	£10.00	£10.00
01/12/2020	BACS	R Harrod	£5.00	£5.00
01/12/2020	BACS	S Paige	£10.00	£10.00
01/12/2020	BACS	B Campion	£10.00	£10.00
03/12/2020	Cheque	B Gould	£20.00	£20.00
04/12/2020	BACS	J Davis	£20.00	£20.00
14/12/2020	BACS	S Tinsley & A Gray	£20.00	£20.00
15/12/2020	BACS	Somerset Ramblers	£350.00	£350.00
29/01/2021	BACS	RA Allocation	£84.00	£84.00
28/04/2021	BACS	RA Allocation	£84.00	£84.00
				£0.00
TOTAL				£905.42

Self funded				
RA entitle	RA core act	C Earl Mem	Other	Total
£87.42				£87.42
	£30.00			£30.00
		£25.00		£25.00
		£25.00		£25.00
		£15.00		£15.00
		£25.00		£25.00
		£5.00		£5.00
		£5.00		£5.00
		£10.00		£10.00
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		£10.00		£10.00
		£10.00		£10.00
		£20.00		£20.00
		£20.00		£20.00
		£20.00		£20.00
		£20.00		£20.00
	£175.00	£175.00		£350.00
£84.00				£84.00
£84.00				£84.00
				£0.00
£255.42	£205.00	£445.00	£0.00	£905.42

EXPENDITURE													
Date	Paid to	Folio No	Chq No	Wells Progr	Publicity Newsletter	Practical Work	M'tings	Admin	Campaigns Casework	Other	C Earl memorial main funds	C Earl memorial self funded	TOTAL
21/10/2020	RA Somerset Area		256	BACS							£25.00	£25.00	£50.00
05/11/2020	S Thomson/Zoom		257	BACS			£14.39						£14.39
21/12/2020	Unity Trust Bank		258	BACS				£0.90					£0.90
02/02/2021	Rustic Wood Co		259	BACS							£175.00	£227.00	£352.00
31/03/2021	Unity Trust Bank		260	BACS				£0.30					£0.30
06/04/2021	Wayford Woods T		261	BACS									£0.00
16/06/2021	E Coker Village ha		262	BACS			£12.00						£12.00
					£0.00	£0.00	£26.39	£1.20	£0.00	£0.00	£200.00	£470.00	£697.59

Ramblers Association South Somerset Group
Balance Sheet YTD 26/5/2020

Assets	2020/21	2019/20
Main Fund at year beginning	£739.99	£668.93
Self funded Fund at year beginning	£90.00	£0.00
Income minus expenditure 2019/20 ytd	£207.83	£161.06
Balance	£1,037.82	£829.99

Income		
From RA Group entitlement	£255.42	£365.58
From RA core activity eg footpath clearance	£30.00	£210.00
Interest	£0.00	£0.00
Ramblers' Area & other Groups Main contribution to C Earl Memorial	£175.00	£0.00
Self funded contribution to C Earl memorial (Members and Area/other Groups)	£445.00	£0.00
Self funded: Sales of Programmes, donations, RWH travel	£0.00	£40.00
Total Income YTD	£905.42	£615.58

Expenditure		
Walk programme	£0.00	£113.46
Publicity / Newsletter	£0.00	£153.64
Practical Work	£0.00	£76.36
Meetings	£26.39	£106.84
Admin	£1.20	£4.22
Campaigns & Casework	£0.00	£0.00
Other	£0.00	£0.00
Self funded expenditure (to C Earl memorial from existing self funded fund)	£470.00	£0.00
Main expenditure (to C Earl memorial from Main fund)	£200.00	£0.00
Total expenditure YTD	£697.59	£454.52

Income less Expenditure YTD	£207.83	£161.06
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BANK BALANCE

Opening Balance as per Balance Sheet	£829.99	£668.93
Plus deposits cleared	£905.42	£615.58
Less payments cleared	£697.59	£454.52
Current Bank Balance	£1,037.82	£829.99
Plus deposits made - not yet cleared on statement	£0.00	
Less payments made - not yet cleared on statement	£0.00	

NET FUNDS

Bank Balance dated	27-Jun-21	Total	£1,037.82	£829.99
			£1,037.82	

Main fund	£972.82	Self funded	£65.00
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