



Minutes of committee meeting 7pm Thursday 9 June 2022 at Barrington village hall.

Present

Jim Turner (Chairman)
Stuart Thomson (Hon. Treasurer)
Ian Rendell (Hon. Secretary)
Phil Bradshaw
Wendy Yates
Martin Pakes
Peter Milligan
Bill Tregillus
Katherine Pratt

Apologies for absence

Rosie Arampatta
John Day
Maureen Day
Maggie Owers

Welcome

Jim Turner welcomed committee members. Bill Tregillus confirmed that Lynne Reece has resigned from the Ramblers.

Minutes of the last Committee Meeting 3 February 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 February were approved by the Committee.

Matters arising

Jim T referred to his email advising members of the unanimous decision taken by the membership at the Ramblers AGM to abandon Risk Assessments, even though all the Trustees voted in favour of keeping them. Ramblers HO are reviewing the formal policy and will issue further instructions. Until the guidance is changed we are required to carry out a Risk Assessment for each walk and retain them for 3 years.

It was also confirmed that in the event of an accident on a walk the walk leader should complete a formal accident report and advise the chairman of South Somerset Ramblers Group. Ian Rendell has a stock of the forms and they can also be found on "Assemble" the Ramblers volunteer's website.

Chairman's report

No specific report as everything is covered under other agenda items. Commented that the AGM was well attended

Treasurer's report June 2022

See attached set of accounts for details of our balance sheet as at 9 June 2022. These had been previously circulated to committee members by email. The Treasurer, Stuart Thomson, reported that the Group's finances are in a healthy state with a balance of £1244.03.

The Group continues to receive quarterly payment of £79 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 early September for them to be included in this year's accounts.

It was agreed that all members incurring costs on behalf of the Ramblers should submit an expense claim and not be expected to cover the costs themselves.

The treasurer agreed to find out if travel expenses can be paid to Walk Leaders when recceing a walk.

Katherine Pratt agreed to be a third signatory to the Unity Trust Bank for approving on-line payments. Treasurer to process the application in conjunction with Katherine.

Secretary's Report

Ian Rendell explained that he receives very little mail and that as he was no longer walking he felt the committee should find a replacement secretary. Katherine Pratt volunteered and it was agreed she would work with Ian and take over formally at the AGM. Wendy to locate a job description for the secretary and let Katherine have a copy.

Katherine will liaise with Ian on booking the venues for the next committee meeting and AGM, It was agreed these should preferably be Tintinhull village hall.

Katherine also agreed to take the minutes of future committee meetings.

Membership Secretary's Report

Bill T advised that the current total membership of the South Somerset Group stated by the Central Office as at June 2022 is 224 compared with 233 in December 2021. 6 new members had joined since March. Bill T advised that he was able to interrogate the membership database to find new members but found the database complex and he needs to investigate further to get maximum benefit from it.

It was agreed that an email should be sent to all new members welcoming them to the Group with a copy of the current programme. Jim T agreed to draft the email and Bill T will send them to the new members.

Bill T advised that the national average age of all Ramblers members is 68, he estimated that the SS Group's average age is well into the 70s.

Programme Secretaries' Reports

Sunday walks. Jim Turner advised that Peter Bradford has taken over from Jean Verkroost as Programme Secretary for the Sunday walks.

Thursday walks. Phil Bradshaw advised that he anticipates producing a walk programme of 30 walks of a possible 34 (ie 2 walks each Thursday) for the Aug – Nov programme. Phil advised that he would not want to continue if we resorted to a much shorter planning horizon which would lead to more work as he was already handling both C and D walks previously covered by two people.

Walk Programmes

Martin P advised we should produce the printed version in its traditional form for this next programme. Martin will speak with Peter Bradford, who has taken over from Jean Verkroost as Website manager, and make recommendations for producing future programmes. A final decision on whether to maintain the programme in its current format will be taken at the AGM.

Martin was not aware of any complaints relating to not distributing a printed copy of the programme.

Ideally the walk details provided on the programme should include key waymarks of the route to enable walkers to have an idea of the route prior to the walk.

Reports from Footpath Secretaries

East (P Bradshaw) - nothing to report.

South (P Milligan)-

Peter asked if anyone had news about the 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. The road works to repair the damage from recent landslide was

thought to be more extensive than originally envisaged and it was not clear how this would affect the pedestrian underpass.

North (J Verkroost)-nothing to report

West (S Thomson) Stuart advised that a supplementary consultation document on the A358 dual carriageway had been issued and taken account of some of the points raised by the Ramblers. A new non-motorised bridge (Jordans bridge) (pedestrian / cyclists / horse riders) over the A358 between Ashill and the Southfield roundabout at Ilminster had been included to replace the previously proposed Ding underpass which was not considered viable due to possible flooding.

It was agreed that Bill T would send an email to all SS members asking for a volunteer to act as Footpath Officer for the West to replace Stuart who is doing the job on a temporary basis until a replacement can be found. Stuart agreed to obtain a map of the Footpath secretaries' areas.

Working Party Report

No activity to report.

Publicity Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

Any other Business

AGM. It was confirmed that the AGM would be on Saturday 5 November at 2 pm. Preferably at Tintinhull village hall.

Provision of memorial. Following discussion on how to commemorate recently deceased members it was decided that a £20 donation to a charity chosen by the relatives of the deceased would be made by the Treasurer on behalf of the South Somerset Ramblers. The Chairman and Treasurer would make that decision on a timely basis without further reference to the committee.

Summer Supper. Phil B advised that to date only two people had booked with the Cross Keys for the Summer supper on 21 July. If the numbers had not increased to double figures by 17 July Phil would cancel the booking. It was thought that many members were not aware of the Summer supper and it was agreed that Bill T would email all members with the details.

Distribution of minutes of meeting. The chairman asked that the minutes be distributed by the secretary (rather than the person writing the minutes) since it would be easier to locate them.

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

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Date of Next Committee Meeting

Thursday 13 October 2022 at 7pm. Tintinhull village hall (subject to confirmation of booking by secretary)