



Minutes of Committee Meeting on 2nd October 2025

Present: Jim Turner, John Day, Maureen Day, Bill Tregillus, Bill Pratt, Wendy Yates

Apologies: Martin Pakes, Rosie Arampatta, Phil Bradshaw.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 5th June 2025 were approved.

Matter Arising: None

Chairman's Report:

Jim Turner spoke about the passing away of Jim Fewkes a Past Chairman and long-standing ramblers. Wendy Yates was to send a card to the family on behalf of the Ramblers.

Jim reflected upon the report from Martin Pakes about the decline in the numbers of walk leaders over the years. We had 11 leaders for Thursday walks as recently as 2021, but this was now down to 5. The number of leaders on Sundays was little changed at 7, although the core number of walkers (on Sundays) was steady there were often visiting Ramblers and a few new people. Nonetheless regular walkers' numbers were a bit down.

On the Thursday Bill Tregillus said walkers' numbers had picked up often with over 20 walkers. A few new regular walkers had joined the group. However, a handful of long-term walkers had recently dropped out due to health and age-related fitness. With an ageing membership this was a trend he expected to continue.

Bill T suggested we could survey members about the length and location of walks that were favoured. Note, this action can be discussed at the forthcoming AGM to see if the membership agrees.

Treasurer's Report:

Bill Pratt reported the bank balance was £1270. There was little movement in funds with £80 coming into the report each quarter from Ramblers and monies for hall bookings going out to cover meetings.

Secretary's Report: None

Programme Co-ordinator's Report:

Martin Pakes was absent, and his written report is at Appendix 1. A full programme of both Sunday and Thursday walks was in the latest October to December Programme.



Walks Programme Co-Ordinator Reports:

Jim Turner reported that Peter Bradford had led walks in Dorset for visiting groups in addition to maintaining a full programme of Sunday walks.

John Day said he was pleased that the walk leaders were working together to keep up a full programme of Thursday walks. Bill Tregillus said he had sought to get more timely walk details from some so as to avoid adding walks after the Programme had been issued as many members valued the paper copy.

Footpath Secretary's Report:

Bill Tregillus said Phil Bradshaw was dealing with an enquiry about a blocked path near Ilchester.

Social Secretary's Report:

Wendy Yates confirmed the Christmas Dinner is at Cricket St Thomas Golf Club, on 11th December 2025. It is two courses for £21. Thirteen confirmed so far. Bill Tregillus to send out a reminder and request for bookings by 10th November 2025. Wendy requested people bring cakes for the AGM on 1st November at Tintinhull Village Hall.

Leader Training Matter:

Jim Turner spoke about ongoing impacts upon the number of leaders in many groups due to people saying they would not do the training. On a positive note, Bill Tregillus said Bob Waterhouse and Phil Eveleigh had completed the training. He had done it himself and was encouraging others to do it.

Membership Secretary's Report:

Bill Tregillus reported that the group had 225 members.

Next meeting is the AGM on 1st November 2025.

Bill Tregillus to send out papers as the Secretary is away. All Officers present confirmed their willingness to continue in their current roles.

Next Committee Meeting date to be set at the AGM.



APPENDIX 1

Report from Martin Pakes

October-December C/D Walks

	Walks	Leaders	
2025	12	5	
2021	20	11	First Year Post Covid
2020	0	0	Covid
2015	23	17	Includes 3 Saturday Walks
2010	26	18	Includes 2 Saturday Walks

Sunday Walks

	Walks	Leaders	
2025	13	7	
2021	11	8	First Year Post Covid
2020	0	0	Covid
2015	12	9	
2010	12	10	

The figures speak for themselves but I thought it worth illustrating how we are perhaps, becoming unsustainable as a ramblers group.

The Sunday walks seem to be holding their own (just!) but the C/D walks are looking vulnerable.

Covid appears to have played a smaller role in the reduction of the number of leaders. The biggest decline has been the demise of those members who were exclusively D walkers. They formed a significant part of our group at one time, and they provided the majority of leaders from within their own ranks. I suspect many have left and found informal walking groups centred around villages more to their taste and capabilities.

The other factor is that the C walk leaders have grown older and cannot manage to lead anymore! Whereas in the past, new, younger walkers would fill their boots, today, there are fewer newcomers, and they seem reluctant to lead. It is significant that there only 3 of the 12 Thursday walks in the current programme, that are C walks.

I can't think we are unique amongst other ramblers' groups. It might be a cultural change in society, or the RA has an image problem. I do not believe our group can significantly improve the situation. It is a national problem facing the RA and it should be dealt with nationally.