



The Ramblers South Somerset Group

Minutes of virtual Zoom committee meeting 2pm 11 February 2021

Present

Roger Cripps (Acting Chairman)
Stuart Thomson (Treasurer)
Ian Rendell (Hon. Secretary)
Phil Bradshaw
Wendy Yates
Martin Pakes
Peter Milligan

Other Members Present

Jim Turner
Lynne Reece
Lynne Oakerbee
Maggie Owers
Rosie Arampatta
John & Maureen Day

A Moment of Remembrance

The Committee took a moment to remember members James Green & Brian Jackson who have passed away since the last committee meeting.

Minutes of the last (virtual) Meeting 5 November 2020

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 November were approved by the Committee for signing by the Acting Chairman, Roger Cripps.

Matters arising

Somerset Rambler: To date we do not have a volunteer willing to submit text with news about our Group.

First Aid Training: There may be an opportunity to enlist more members wishing to train for a First Aid Certificate should there be another course near to our area

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Chairman's report

Roger Cripps welcomed all to the meeting, especially welcoming all the prospective new committee members and introduced the existing committee and officers with a brief description of their tasks. He then gave a resume of what the Ramblers do apart from walking of course and mentioned the two social events that take place in normal times.

Roger talked about the role of the Footpath Secretaries who liaise with the local authorities concerning footpath modifications, additions, problems and faults.

At a meeting of all four FPS with Les Stather (Area FPS) concerning the Ramblers Lost Ways project (formerly known as the Don't Lose Your Way Scheme) Les informed us that this was going to be a long term project as Somerset County Council already had over 300 path modifications to deal with and, at the moment, they were only resolving 12 per year. It is a very painstaking process.

The Ramblers Association are trying to evolve a star scheme to ascertain priority. (the more stars the higher the priority)

I also attended a meeting of all Chairs of the Area to discuss some forward planning and a rota for the Area AGM's. It seems that South Somerset's turn will be in 2022 – so this is something that will have to be arranged or at least thought about fairly soon. Langport was suggested as a centrally located venue.

We have had a great response to the request for donations towards a memorial bench for Carl Earl. (Details in the treasurer report) Just a reminder that, although Carl was not known to everybody in the Group, he was a valued Committee member, Sunday walker and Leader, Working Party organiser, Area Footpath Secretary and an Expert in Rights of Way matters. His bench has been selected, approved by his widow Liz Earl, ordered and the site agreed at Wayford Woods near Clapton on the Dorset border.

Treasurer's report

See attached set of accounts for details of our year

With no printing of programmes or newsletters and no expenditure on working party expenses due to the Covid restrictions our bank balance is a healthy £1184.12 with £901.12 in the main fund (where we are restricted to spending only on Ramblers' core activities) plus £283 in the self-funded fund (where we are not restricted by the Ramblers as to how we spend the money). The balance has also been boosted by a total of £620 raised for Carl Earl's memorial, of which £270 was contributed by individual members (mainly our Sunday walking group of which Carl was a regular Walker) plus £350 from all the Somerset Ramblers Groups and Area (which also included a £50 contribution from our own Group).

We continue to receive our quarterly allocation of £84 from the Ramblers Association's central funds.

We received a £30 refund of the hire fee from E Coker village hall for the cancelled AGM last November.

We have made a payment of £402 for the purchase of a seat to be installed at Wayford Woods as a memorial to Carl Earl. It is intended that the balance of £218 raised for Carl's memorial will be either spent on additional equipment for Wayford Woods or as a donation to the Woods. This £218 payment will all come from the self-funded fund leaving us with a balance of £65 in the self-funded fund and total of £966.12 going forward - a very healthy financial position.

Secretary's Report

Letters / E-mails received.

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

Permitted Numbers on Walks.

At the risk of repeating the paragraph in my November notes I remind us :
Unless the rules have changed very recently the information with which you are already familiar.
The maximum number partaking in a walk must not exceed 30, as an outdoor activity
(to which the limit of 6 does no apply), and special spacing conditions apply.
Walk Leaders can set a lower limit if they wish for whatever reason.
Walks must not travel to or from high alert areas; nor must they travel to Wales

New Registered Address

We are advised that the Ramblers Association has a new Registered Address which is:-

The Ramblers, 1, Clink Street, 3rd. Floor, London, SE1 9DG.

I think "3rd. Floor" should possibly be before "1, Clink St." ~~~ it looks as if The Ramblers is on the 3rd. Floor of London!

Mail that goes to Camelford House will be forwarded.

Telephone numbers and the email address will remain the same.

Membership:-

At 07/02/2021

The total membership of the South Somerset Group stated by the Central Office as at 7th. February 2021 is **231**.

Last November the figure given was 236

Reports from Footpath Secretaries

East (P Bradshaw) - nothing to report. However Phil praised Les Stather for his efforts in taking over the role of Area Footpath Secretary.

South (P Milligan)- I have nothing to report apart from the footpath that goes from the A30 near the junction with Camp Road to nearly ½ way down Bunford Hollow. I haven't been able to walk it yet but there is a gate and finger post at the A30 end. I am not sure what happens at the lower end as it should go through hedge and onto the A3088 which is a busy road and there isn't a pavement.

North (J Verkroost)-nothing to report

West (R Cripps)- nothing to report

Working Party

Roger Cripps advised that the working party was in abeyance although they were still checking footpaths etc.

Reports from Programme Secretaries

Sunday Walks

Jean Verkroost reported: that there is now a full programme for April to end July 2021.
A lot of the walks are re-submissions from previous cancelled walks.

Thursday walks Programme April –July

Phil Bradshaw advised that despite asking previous leaders if they would lead a similar walk on dates as last year, he had a mixed response.

The programme for Thursday walks would have a maximum of 35 walks...C and D.
At the moment he has 25 firm offers and so there will be sufficient people to 'staff' at least one walk and sometimes two each week.

Phil advised that he was finding it difficult to get walk leaders for a full programme of two walks per Thursday and it may finish up with just one walk per week for some weeks.

It was agreed that the Programme Secretary's Report should be elevated to an earlier position on the Agenda in future.

Production of Walks Programme

Martin was given authority to make minor alterations where necessary.

It was agreed that Digital Programmes were acceptable for the near future

The guidelines for walkers & leaders should be updated as regularly as possible.

A deadline for the next programme will be the end of February to be published in mid March.
Several statements normally on the programme are considered obsolete due to the digital version.

Publicity Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

Any other Business-

Summer Supper – Suggested July 15th - In view of the current circumstances it has been decided we will wait, pending relaxed covid restrictions.

Roger has stated that he will be standing down as acting chairman & suggested a rotation system in the event that no-one else volunteers to take the position.

Stuart Thomson has agreed to be Acting chair for the next Zoom meeting.

It was noted that when Covid restrictions are removed a new venue for future Committee Meetings will be need to be arranged.

It was agreed that a monthly email keeping people informed of future disruptions due to Covid restrictions be circulated, but that walk leaders can inform participants if parking in a pub or meals are available.

It was agreed that we would purchase a One Month Zoom Pro License for the next committee meeting to allow for the meeting lasting longer than the 40 minute restriction on the Free version

Minutes Secretary

The committee agreed that, until we can find a permanent minutes secretary, committee members will take turns to write the committee meeting minutes.

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

Date of Next Zoom Committee Meeting 3rd June 2021

