



SOUTH SOMERSET GROUP

of THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

Committee Meeting held on 8.6.23 at Tintinhull Village Hall

Present: Jim Turner, John Day, Maureen Day, Rosie Harampatta, Phil Bradshaw, Peter Milligan, Wendy Yates, Bill Pratt, Katherine Pratt

Apologies for Absence Received: Bill Tregillus and Martin Pakes

The meeting was opened by Jim Turner at 7.30 pm.

Minutes of the Last meeting on 13.10.22

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and passed. There were no matters arising.

Chairman's Report

Jim wanted to pay his respects to Ian Rendall, who sadly passed away in November. Ian had a long association with the ramblers and his hard work, dedication and long service were recognized.

Treasurer's Report

There is currently £1436.89 in the account, and there are no major expenses due. Bill is going to check the Ramblers' website for guidance on what the group could spend some of the money on. Travelling expenses for meetings, walking recces etc can be claimed for at 45p a mile. It was suggested that some of the money could be used for a memorial for Ian. Katherine has reduced the cost of hall hire by reducing the amount of time it is hired for.

Secretary's Report

Katherine discussed the setting up of the Facebook account, and the committee agreed that this seemed to be working well. People are posting photographs of the walks and it is hoped that this will attract some new members.

Congratulations to Brian Roberts as one of his photos was published in the Walk Magazine.

Programme Secretary's Report

Jean has stated that in future, all walks will need to have an estimated completion time. This has already been calculated, and the approximate times are;

D walk – 1.8 mph
C walk – 2 mph
A and B walks – 2.2 mph.

Walk Programme Co-Ordinator

John reported that all of the walks between August and November have now been filled. There are 7 C walks and 11 D walks, however there is only one walk per week. There are currently only 7 regular walk leaders, however we do have a couple of new leaders for the Sunday walks. Anyone who is interested in leading a walk can speak to any committee member and support and guidance can be given, including help with recce for the walk.

Jim said that the Sunday group publish a recce list that people can go on, but you must be a walk leader to do this. Could we do this for the Thursday walks as well?

As there is only one walk per week throughout the summer, we discussed what could be done if too many people turn up. It would help if two people had recce'd the walk as we could then split the group into 2 with 2 leaders, starting at slightly different times.

John has asked if the walk leaders can give him a list of how many people were on the walk each week so we can make plans if there are too many people.

Katherine mentioned that a couple of people talked about shorter walks at the weekend. We are going to look to see if it would be possible to do a shorter section of some of the walks, perhaps 5 or 6 miles, perhaps once a month.

Membership Secretary's Report

Bill was unable to attend the meeting but sent the following report:

I can report that we have 227 members, up 5 since October 2022 (with 142 of them being emailable).

Since 2/3/23 we have had 7 new members, whilst we have had 4 resignations and 2 lapsed memberships. All the 'Leavers' joined in 2021.

Other Items

1. Please can we include Postcodes for all walks in the Walks Programme. Virtually everyone uses SatNav to get to walks, and postcodes are quick and easy to use.
2. Cancellation of walks – carried over from the last meeting – I think this is simply about clarity and everyone being clear on the process to follow. A note about this is in the Walks Programme and this could maybe be updated by dropping the word 'occasionally' and changing 'advisable' to 'essential'. Whilst I send emails out not everyone gets them. Jean is excellent updating the website, but I wonder if she needs a deputy to do the updates if she is away? **Committee discussed this and Bill P felt that he could do this if Jean was away**
3. Can we do, as many other informal walking groups do, request that walkers arrive 10 minutes before the start time (allowing time to put boots on, the walk briefing (and often to order food in a pub). We have had at least two occasions on Thursdays recently where people have arrived on the dot for the start time and 20 others have had to wait for the start whilst people get themselves ready to leave.

Footpath Secretary

The Wincanton group asked if we could offer an opinion on a footpath diversion. Phil Bradshaw has done this.

Social Secretary

There is still time to book a place for the summer supper at Long Sutton Golf Club on 3.8.23 at 7.30pm. Please contact Wendy if you would like to go.

We discussed the Christmas lunch. A change of venue has been requested by some members but the majority wanted to continue going to the Muddled Man. It was decided that we will use the venue this year, but if members are not happy then we will change the venue next year. The lunch has been arranged for December 14.

Proceeding with Walks in Bad Weather

Jim felt that it is very important that if people turn up for a walk, even if it is only a small number, the walk should go ahead. The only exception to this is if there is a health and safety concern.

Any Other Business

None

Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on 12 October 2023 at Tintinhull Village Hall at 7.30