



SOUTH SOMERSET GROUP

of THE RAMBLERS' ASSOCIATION

Minutes of Meeting Held on 15 February 2024

Present: Jim Turner, Bill Tregillus, Bill Pratt, Martin Pakes, John Day, Maureen Day, Rose Arampatta, Wendy Yates, Phil Bradshaw, Katherine Pratt

Apologies for Absence Received: Les Stather

The meeting was opened by Jim Turner at 7.30 pm

Minutes of the Last Meeting

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

Chairman's Report

All of Jim's matters were covered in separate categories.

Treasurer's Report

A copy of the accounts was provided. There is currently £1590 in the account. A payment has been made to the group by WRH travel for £90. The ramblers group gets a payment when a member books a holiday with them. The main expenses have been for hall hire and refreshments.

Secretary's Report

Katherine reported that there are currently 99 members in the ramblers Facebook group. At the moment this does not seem to be resulting in any new people walking, but members have said that they enjoy seeing photos of the walks.

Jean has sent an e mail stating that Jim has offered to take on the roles of backup website manager and backup online walks manager.

Membership Secretary's Report

Bill T reported that there are currently 223 members of the South Somerset Group. There are 16 new members, 4 have resigned, 5 have lapsed and 2 have moved. Of these members, 140 are e mailable, so we still have a lot of people who do not receive updates etc. 174 members can be contacted by post.

Programme Secretary's Report

Martin reported that he is currently compiling the next programme. There are a few gaps but these are starting to fill up. Covid advice issued from head office advises that there are no longer any restrictions but suggests that we ask members not to come to a walk if they have covid.

Details of the summer supper will be included in the next programme.

Walks Programme Co-ordinator

There have been some additions since the programme was sent out. Phil Bradshaw has included some Saturday walks in the programme. Most of the walks are now covered, some weeks have two walks, others only one.

Footpath Secretary's Report

Bill Pratt has now taken over the area of West Somerset. He has not yet had any communications regarding this area. Phil Bradshaw has sent Les Stather an e mail to remind him of the areas we are covering. There is an ongoing case in Mudford.

Social Secretary's Report

Wendy was thanked for all of her hard work in relation to organising the Christmas party. The Royal Oak in Hardington has been booked for the summer supper on 8 August.

Solar Planning

Bill T asked if the group are able to support stopping a proposed new solar farm in Wayford. Jim is going to speak to head office to clarify our position on this.

Involvement in Footpath Issues

Bill T has been sent details of an issue with a bridge which has been a long running case. It has been clarified that the council are responsible for this, not the ramblers, so Bill has sent an e mail explaining this to the person involved.

Walk Leader Guidance

Jim reported that the feedback on this can be summarised as follows:-

The document was too long and parts of it were irrelevant. It will be shorted and jargon removed.

Generally welcomed having walk leader info in one place

Members felt the onus was too much on the leader and did not highlight the walkers' responsibility.

Requirements for first aid for each grade of walk will be clarified.

Feedback from Area AGM

This was held at Holford Village Hall on 10 February 2023. It was confirmed that the Tenby walking holiday has been cancelled due to lack of numbers. The 'Don't Lost Your Way' issue was discussed. Les Stather has been managing the project for Somerset. Volunteers are using their knowledge and maps to identify missing footpaths.

First Aid Training

Katherine reported that she has had a quote regarding a 4-hour basic first aid course to be held in the Yeovil Area. The cost for up to 12 people will be £288 + VAT. It was agreed that Katherine would contact walk leaders to see who would like to attend and then book a date.

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Any Other Business

None

Dates of Next Meeting

30 May 2024 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.50pm