

TAUNTON DEANE RAMBLERS

Minutes of the AGM meeting held on 29th November 2019 at the Quaker Meeting House.

Present	John Ollerenshaw	Chairman
	Gill Lee	Treasurer
	Lynda Stewart	Correspondence secretary
	Dot Mackay	Minutes secretary
	Attendees 37	

APOLOGIES Kathy Richardson Morag Howsam Chris Whitmore Mike Whitmore Judy Hawkes Wendy Morrison P Kearn Colin Flood Barbara North Tor Townsend Sarah Howe Malcolm Gardiner Edwin Hughes Richard Stone Joyce Leonhardt Sally Childs

Chairman's Opening Remarks.

John opened by relating that historically the group has completed several trails. The history and development of The East Deane way initially arose from an approach by Ian Clarke, the TDBC head of landscape and Heritage. It was unique in that most of it could be walked using public transport to and fro Taunton. These trails are always more difficult to organize being linear. Judi Townsend and Janice Cockett took on the challenge and organised a couple of trails this year. Anne Derbe suggested this might be easier if we used a coach for transport but this isn't feasible because numbers are not constant. John mentioned Winter Friday evening walks which will be discussed in AOB. John signed the minutes of the last meeting as being a true record of the last the AGM 2018.

Matters Arising.

Martin Cooper has been appointed as the new volunteers officer regarding the maintenance of footpaths. Philip is hopeful that we can re start our path clearing and improvement activities. Possibly purchase more tools for this.

We discussed reflective strips and some have been purchased from Halfords to enable us to be seen more clearly in dusky conditions. These have been distributed to those people who wish to wear them.

Annual report.

The post Christmas lunch took place last year at the cricket club. No one came forward to organize this event this year. The committee are willing to organize a dinner if there is support. Daphne Hayden suggested we alternated to have one year pre Christmas and the next post Christmas. Something the committee could discuss. The coach outing this year was to Exmouth and provided opportunities for four types of walks. This was very well supported.

Short walks are becoming more popular in the programme.

The Winter programme has been filled more easily this year. John thanked everyone for their willingness to lead walks.

The annual report was unanimously proposed.

Treasurer's Report.

The coach trip made a small loss but this was taken into account when it was being priced. We are still selling books. Gill asked for suggestions on how to spend our money these have to be walk related. The club does on line banking which has been easy to use. Gail suggested we used some of our money to improve footpaths. Philip advised that we need to maintain a relationship with the footpath officers at the county council but this was a possibility. The treasurer's report was approved.

Footpath Report.

This has not been a busy year regarding footpath proposals. Oake Manor's proposal to divert the right of way has been accepted by the county council. We stand ready to comment on the proposal to dual the A 358 and how this will affect Ramblers. It is impossible to cross this very busy road if there is a footpath designated to cross it. Maybe an underpath or bridge will be provided to facilitate this. The cost would be prohibitive.

Area Secretary's report.

There is a need for a succession of people to follow the present officers. This is difficult as the officers are so widely distributed and it is difficult getting to meet travelling being an issue Details of area meetings will be posted on the area website.

Programme Secretary's Report.

Andrew was praised for the quality of the programme produced and for keeping members informed if there are alterations to this..

Membership Secretary's Report.

Val thanked the posties who deliver the programmes every quarter which saves the club a lot of money in stamps. Our numbers remain constant which is not the case in other clubs.

Sunday Walks.

Janice thanked everyone who has led walks on a Sunday. She is willing to help anyone who wishes to organise a trail walk. She is adding to her walks boxes for anyone to use.

Election of Officers and Members of the Committee.

Judi Townsend proposed John as chairman. Joy seconded. He was unanimously elected.

Both Dot and Lynda have resigned their roles as secretary.

Lynda Kearns has been proposed by Judi Townsend seconded by Judy Hawkes to be the new secretary.

John Ollerenshaw proposed a vote of thanks to both Dot and Lynda for their three years service even if Dot's contribution seemed to be the making of lemon drizzle cakes! This was seconded by Philip Bisatt.

The remainder of the committee are willing to stand. Lynda Stewart proposed them seconded by Wendy Camp.

Election of other officials. Andrew Norris proposed all remaining officials en bloc this was carried unanimously. John proposed a vote of thanks to Davina Cole for her efforts as all day walk leader over the past seven years. Kathy Richardson was proposed to be the new all day coordinator by Davina Cole seconded by Andrew Norris. This was carried unanimously.

Cath Russell suggested the annual subscription should not be increased year on year especially for those walkers who can only take part in a few walks. It was suggested there might be a way of reducing the annual cost by giving the option of not receiving the magazine. Philip suggested this was a matter for headquarters but might be raised at an area meeting.

Joanne Nacey is the auditor for our accounts. It was felt that she should be paid however this is difficult connected with the rules of the charities commission.

AOB

First Aid courses ICE cards have been produced which we should carry giving details of any medical issues we have. John has ordered a number of ICE cards which some walking members with specific health problems might find useful should they become ill or injured on a walk. ICE stands for 'In Case Of Emergency'. Richard and Jessica were praising the first aid course they had attended as did other participants including our chairman.

Lack of support for Friday evening walks during the Winter was raised. This issue had been discussed in committee. Several times no one has turned up to do the proposed walk which makes it very difficult for the leaders especially when a pub has been pre booked. This can affect a publican who may have set aside space for us and potentially turned away other customers. This might lead to fewer pubs accepting bookings from us. TDR might get a bad name. Some pubs don't open until 6pm making earlier start times unworkable. It can be difficult getting leaders to lead during the Winter months. John asked how the meeting felt about walking in the Winter. Andrew proposed we only offer walks to go in the programme between March and October. If someone wishes to put in a walk in the Winter then this can be offered a week or two in advance of the actual date and members notified by E mail. This method of communication seems to be a satisfactory way of informing members. The meeting proposed we should actively seek walks to be included in the programme during British Summer time but not during the remainder of the year. This was supported.

Lynda cheered us up by reading a poem. The meeting closed at 9-25 pm.