

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Taunton Deane Ramblers held on Friday 24th November 2023 at 7pm at the Friends' Meeting House, Taunton.

Present:

Val Boswell Chair, Gill Lee Treasurer, Lynda Kearn Secretary,

Joy Williams, Philip Bisatt, Carol Allen, Andrew Norris, Val Norris, Liz Hembrow, Brenda P, Diana F, Wendy M, Trevor C, Barbara C, Charlotte T, Davina C, Michael B, (17 attendees in total)

1. Apologies for absence

Jan R, Sue C-B, Wendy C, Jane L, Linda E, Sue J, Gill E, Philippa K, Mike W, Chris W.

2. Chair's opening remarks

Val welcomed everyone to the meeting. She said that one of the highlights of the last year was the coach trip to Instow and the Committee is already planning next year's trip to Swanage. It is likely that the cost will be £30 a head to include refreshments at the end of the walk.

At the Somerset Area AGM in February, which the group hosted at Curry Mallet, Val was elected as Area Chair until the next Area AGM in 2024 as this is now done in rotation through each group Chair in the Somerset Area. There followed a short discussion about the role of the Area Committee.

Val mentioned that there are three vacancies on the Committee and hoped that members would be willing to help fill these.

3. Minutes of the AGM held on 25th November 2022.

The Minutes of the 2022 AGM were agreed by those members present.

4. Matters Arising

None

5. Annual Report

This was posted on the TDR website prior to the meeting.

6. Treasurer's Report

Another good year. We had a well supported outing to Instow. The profit from last year's outing helped subsidise a much appreciated Drink & Cake at the end of this year's walk.

The donations from Ramblers holidays are back to a pre-covid figure. Many thanks to those who nominate TDR when booking their holiday.

Phil Bisatt as Footpath Secretary has been busy checking footpaths, for which we pay mileage expenses.

Gill also thanked Richard Stone for once again auditing the accounts. A copy was posted on the website prior to the meeting.

The Committee is looking for things to spend some money on.

A Zoom licence has been mentioned but this costs £119 a year which is expensive for 4 meetings.

Barbara C suggested that she might be able to help with this.

We also spend £100 a year on the Ordnance Survey group app for walk leaders to use.

Gill said that buying first aid kits for walk leaders was being considered.

Liz H suggested a first aid training course tailored for those walking outside. This was supported by the members present.

Liz said there are approx 15 regular walk leaders for Wednesday walks and Carol said 12 for Sunday walks.

A training session for walk leaders was also being planned to cover risk assessment, use of Assemble and the OS app, etc.

7. Committee Members' and Postholders' Reports

The following reports were posted on the website prior to the meeting.

- **Membership Secretary**

The membership report shows that our numbers are holding steady at 265 members. Val N. said that since producing the report we have had two more members who have rejoined.

- **Footpath Secretary**

Phil said that since the formation of the Unitary Somerset Council all notices go direct to Les Stather who is the Somerset Area Footpath Secretary and he then forwards them on to the relevant Group Footpath Secretary. Group Footpath Secretaries are no longer meeting face to face as happened before Covid.

The locals who live near the site of the proposed solar farm in Ham which Phil mentioned in his report have asked for the Ramblers to continue objecting to this proposal.

The Bickenhall bridleway is still closed off as of last Wednesday despite the served notice requiring obstructions to be removed by 18th November. The gates are locked and there is no way to get a horse through.

Phil offered to continue to be available to help and advise if a new Footpath Secretary is elected.

8. Election of Officers and Members of the Committee

No nominations have been received from members wishing to stand as Officers and Val Boswell, Lynda Kearn, Gill Lee and Joy Williams have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election. Andy Norris proposed that they were elected en bloc and Wendy M seconded this. This was carried by a majority vote of the members present.

Trevor Coombe was proposed as a Committee member by Gill Lee and this was seconded by Sue J. This was carried by a majority vote of the members present.

Liz Hembrow was proposed as a Committee member by Lynda Kearn and this was seconded by Gill L. This was carried by a majority vote of the members present.

Brenda Prentice was proposed as a Committee member by Barbara C and this was seconded by Michael B. This was carried by a majority vote of the members present.

Chair	Val Boswell
Secretary	Lynda Kearn
Treasurer	Gill Lee
Committee member 1	Joy Williams
Committee member 2	Trevor Coombe
Committee member 3	Liz Hembrow
Committee member 4	Brenda Prentice

9. Election to fill non-Committee posts

One nomination has been received for the post of Footpath Secretary. Brenda Prentice was nominated by Phil Bisatt and seconded by Barbara C. This was carried by a majority vote of the members present.

No further nominations have been received and the postholders have all indicated that they are happy to stand for re-election except for Tim Knowles who wished to step down as Sunday short walks co-ordinator. These post holders were therefore re-elected en bloc but the role of Co-ordinator for short Sunday walks remains vacant. Friday walks are no longer being offered at the present time.

Footpath Secretary	Brenda Prentice
Membership Secretary	Val Norris
Website Co-ordinator	Andy Norris
Programme Secretary	Joy Williams
Assistant Programme Secretaries:	
Short Sunday	Vacant
All day Sunday	Carol Allen
Wednesday	Liz Hembrow

10. Appointment of Accounts Examiner

Gill asked Richard Stone if he was happy to continue in this role for another year and he agreed.

Barbara C thanked the Committee for their hard work.

Date of next AGM: Friday 22nd November 2024.

Meeting closed at 20.13h