

Committee Meeting 8th July 2026 held at 11.00h at Liz's house.

Present: Liz H (Chair), Lynda K (Secretary), Gill L (Treasurer), Joy W, Trevor C, Charlotte T, Brenda P (Footpath Officer) Peter M (remote observer)

1. **Apologies:** Barbara C.

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 15th April 2026**
These were accepted by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

- **First Aid training.** Charlotte the trainer was excellent although not as many people as anticipated were there, probably because of the very hot weather. Liz suggested that we repeat the training on a two yearly basis. It was CPR and resuscitation but there will be a talk on First Aid at the AGM in November. Ramblers have now negotiated a discount for training courses run by St John and Red Cross but Liz said that it is difficult to talk to the local groups as calls are to a national number. It would be useful for TDR members to bring their own first aid kits to the AGM to see what they contain.

Action: Charlotte will contact St John and Red Cross to obtain prices for their courses.

Action: Email for AGM to ask members to bring their first aid kits if they have them

- **Castle Drogo trip.** This was an excellent trip. Thank you to Trevor for organising and thank you to Paul, Tracey and Diana for leading the walks.
- **King Charles III SWCP walks**
These have now been recce'd and advertised. Lynda has just postponed the longer walk on Sunday due to the hot weather which is forecast. Joy and Liz are keeping a watch on the forecast for next Wednesday and will make a decision early next week. Joy will add a note to the walk listing.

4. **Officers' reports:**

- **Treasurer's report:**

Summary	Main	Self funded	Total
Total receipts	522.70	1636.00	2158.70
Total payments	429.39	2114.3	2543.69
Surplus/Deficit	93.31	-478.30	-384.99
Account balance	745.80	942.05	1687.85

The Castle Drogo trip had an income of £792 with expenses of £671 for the coach and recce expenses of £104, so there was a small profit of £5 as Gill also bought two books for the walk box.

The First Aid training costs included a £75 donation to Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance and also the hire of the hall.

H.O. email on 17th June: the mileage rate has now increased to 55p/mile.

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 April 2026 – 30 June 2026

TDR membership is currently 240 members with 1 pending membership.

Since 1st April: 11 new members all new to Ramblers, 11 members have resigned, and 4 have lapsed..

This compares to 251 members in July 2025 so slightly down over the year.

- **Footpath officer report:**

Sue Jones and I talked about scrutinising planning Apps in case we could share the load, with committee approval. She decided it wasn't for her.

I presented Ploughing and Cropping at the Local Access Forum. Surprisingly all agreed with me that nothing has changed in 40 years. We need councillors who will work for Rights of Way and changed policies. Will anything happen?

I looked at a path diversion sent via Les. WH 16/46. I wouldn't object to the diversion but the path to it was ploughed and cropped!!! I've yet to respond to R of W and will also put it on Roam...

Joy had reported rubble blocking a path WG11/9 at Langford Budville at the last Committee meeting and this was actually cleared very quickly in time for her walk. There are reports of blockages on this path going back 30 years. The footpath is blocked on its original route and it was the unofficial diverted route that was blocked this time. No diversion request is in place so Brenda has written to Somerset Council but the reply she received was not very helpful. She has spoken with Les Stather about it and will keep trying.

Liz offered to help Brenda by looking at planning applications in the North Curry /Stoke St Gregory area and Charlotte was happy to help with those in the Creech St Michael area.

Brenda said that she didn't want to get involved in path clearing herself and wondered if any TDR members apart from the Committee might be interested. Gill said that previously it was necessary to have a representative from Somerset Council present when path clearing took place. Peter said that fixing stiles and gates ourselves might lead us open to liability issues. The Committee agreed that we should only be clearing paths on walks and on recce's with secateurs.

On a recent walk led by Barbara there was a path going through someone's garden. The owner came out and turned the group around and directed them to a route that was blocked. Trevor will check that this has been reported on the website.

Action: Trevor to check that blocked path has been reported

5. **Summer Walk Programme.**

Trevor said that there are some Wednesday walks in the programme, the next available date is 29th July. Peter is thinking about leading a walk to Dunkery Beacon and asked if this would be suitable for a Wednesday. Trevor replied yes and Liz suggested an earlier start time as that has worked on previous walks that were further away.

Trevor feels that he is getting a lot of aggravation when he asks for walk offers and the group is depending on just a handful of walk leaders to provide the walks. Peter said that in his experience in any situation you always get the same individuals putting their hands up. Trevor would like it to be put out that the group is being carried by 5 walk leaders. Also walks are being sent directly to Joy rather than to him. All Wednesday walk offers should be sent to Trevor first as he is walk co-ordinator. Peter said that the route of communication is not important as we don't want to put people off but to make sure both Trevor and Joy are informed.

Peter offered to help Trevor in asking for walk offers at the start of walks.

Joy said that walk leaders can now choose a date and give a title for the walk which can be put in walks manager and then the full details can be added once the recce is complete. This helps to show which dates have been filled.

Gill said that the group had been in a similar position several years ago and it is okay to leave a week blank if no-one offers a walk.

Trevor thinks that having to do the walk leader training every 3 years is too much for volunteers and thinks we should tell Head Office about our concerns and difficulty in getting walk offers.

Action: Liz to compose email to be sent to out to members to say that walks are not being offered by enough people. Also to add Joy's suggestion of booking a date, walk title and location which can be put in walks manager awaiting further details once the recce has been done.

Action: Peter will assist Trevor by asking for walk offers at the start of each walk. If no walk offer is forthcoming then the date may be left blank.

6. Social event for members old and new

Peter said that the Christmas meal was a really good social event and asked if we could have a summer equivalent, perhaps a meal somewhere.

Gill mentioned that previously TDR had held a picnic by the river at Langport or possible to have fish and chips there. Peter replied that an event undercover would be better as not so weather dependent. It could be lunchtime or evening.

Brenda mentioned an event at Ash Priors village hall with a mobile fish and chip van.

Another suggestion was the Somerset Boat Centre near Maunsell Lock next to the Canal.

The Committee agreed that it was a good idea that needs some planning and asked Peter to investigate some ideas.

Action: Peter will look at options and email the Committee members with ideas. He will also contact Sue Jones about co-ordinating the event.

7. Autumn outing

Barbara has suggested Chepstow as a destination for the outing in June next year.

Various options were discussed for the Autumn trip. Bath or Bradford on Avon were suggested with the Bath Skyline walk as a possible route of 5.5 miles. A date of Wednesday 7th October was decided upon for the trip.

Action: Liz, Charlotte and Lynda will investigate the Bath Skyline walk options.

8. AGM Friday 20th November

Speaker talking on First Aid as it applies to Ramblers. The Friends Meeting House in Taunton is booked.

9. Ramblers laptop

This is very old and although it still works it does not hold its charge any more. It was decided that it can now be disposed of. Gill will ask Andy N if he would be happy to clean it of our data first and then it can be donated.

Action: Gill will contact Andy and then donate the laptop to a suitable group.

10. Recent Ramblers guidance on groups walking on rural roads

Sue Jones has asked for the Committee to discuss this. It says that small groups should keep to the right hand side of the road unless there is a sharp right hand bend when it may be safer to cross to the other side of the road. If you are in a large group keep to the left side of the road; however it does not define what is considered to be a large group.

This is taken from the Highway Code for walkers.

The Committee felt that it was best for the walk leader to look at the road conditions and make the decision which side to walk, keeping walkers together on the same side of the road to allow traffic to drive past safely.

With a large group put someone as a back marker and if necessary someone in the middle.

Walk leaders must allow time for the back marker to catch up and keep them in sight.

Remind walkers to keep an eye out for the others behind them so the group keeps together.

Action: Liz will include the first paragraph 'Rules for pedestrians when there is no pavement' in the email for TDR members

11. Changes to the Insight Hub Access and Data Protection

Joy said that as we have access to other people's email addresses Data Protection is important. Volunteers with access to personal member and/or volunteer data will now need to refresh their data protection training every 12 months. As part of this, you will need to take the updated data protection training by 30 September so you can continue accessing the Insight Hub without interruption. You would have been notified by an email from Gary at the Ramblers on 30/06/26 if you needed to complete this training.

If you go to Ramblers.org.uk and login to your account you will see a Training Library which shows the courses you have already done. If you need to complete the Data Protection module for your volunteer role it will be at the top marked as incomplete-start training.

12. Correspondence

- Val Norris has notified that she wishes to step down from the role of Membership Secretary at the AGM
- Lynda has also indicated that she wishes to step down from the role of Secretary at the AGM

Action: Lynda to contact Val and ask for a description of what the Membership Secretary role entails. Lynda will provide the same for the role of Secretary.

13. AOB

Joy had spoken with Carol Allen who is walk co-ordinator for Sunday walks. She has also has problems with getting people to lead walks but is also struggling with low numbers on the longer walks. She suggested that some shorter walks of 7-8 miles on Sundays might be of interest to some of the stronger Wednesday walkers to boost numbers.

Action: Liz to include this in email to members

Date, time and place of next meeting:

Monday 5th October at 7pm. Location to be decided.

Meeting closed at 12.55h