

Committee Meeting 9th July 2025 held at 11.30am at Brenda's house in Taunton.

Present: Liz H (Chair), Lynda K (Secretary), Gill L (Treasurer), Joy W, Barbara C, Brenda P (Footpath Officer).

1. **Apologies:** Trevor C
2. **Minutes of Meeting on 30th April 2025**
These were agreed by the Committee.
3. **Matters arising:**
 - Summer coach trip feedback
This was very well attended and good comments were received afterwards from members. The variety of options for walks was well received. Brenda commented that the trip was well organised.
 - Sunday afternoon walks
None of these have been in the programme recently. Wednesday afternoon walks are slow in being offered at the moment. It was decided to focus on Wednesday walks for the time being.
 - Walk leaders list update
The list of TDR walk leaders has been updated by Joy and Lynda to remove any who have not led walks in the past 3 years. There are currently a total of 48 walk leaders now listed for TDR.
4. **Officers' reports:**
 - **Treasurer's report:**

Summary	Main	Self funded	Total
Total receipts	406.48	955.00	1361.48
Total payments	392.40	810.00	1202.40
Surplus/Deficit	14.08	145.00	159.08
Account balance	721.45	1020.35	1741.80

Lynmouth Coach trip:
Receipts £900 from 45 members
Payments £675 including 3 refunds for cancellations
Profit £225

Gill commented that funds are good so she has again applied for minimal amount of funding from Head Office.

Funding for any training events comes from the main account.

Liz suggested organising another coach trip in September or October, pricing tickets at a low rate to spend some of the profit from the Lynmouth trip.

Gill clarified how expenditure should be in pursuance of the Ramblers charitable objectives:

1. The provision and protection of footpaths
2. The protection and enhancement of the countryside for the benefit of the public
3. The provision of facilities for the organising of open-air recreational activities for walkers and the public at large
4. Advancing the education of the public in subjects relating to access to, and preservation and conservation of, the countryside and of the health benefits of outdoor recreational pursuits.

Full details can be found on the Ramblers website under Volunteering documents; Finance; Complete guidance for Treasurers, section FIN011: Use of Charitable funds

Membership secretary report:

1 April 2025 – 30 June 2025

TDR membership is currently 251 members with 1 affiliated member and 4 pending memberships.

Since 1st April: 5 new members (4 new to Ramblers, 1 reinstated), 7 members have resigned, 6 have lapsed and 1 has moved groups.

The number of current members is slightly down on this time last year (264 in June 2024) but not significantly so.

- **Footpath officer report:**

I went to Durston and met with R of W staff and Paul Partington, from Open Society. We looked at all aspects of the proposed path diversion, which is not visible on the ground. As there are huge problems with it, Paul thought a Stopping Up order might have to be considered as the problems seem insurmountable (the path exits onto an acceleration lane). Staff went away to think of anything they could offer by way of compensation to the public. So far nothing.

The bridge at Pitminster, I'm told, has been replaced. I've not been able to check on this as the path to it is blocked with maize. I mentioned this to the maintenance officer who said: there's a wide headland, you can go round the outside! I asked if they were telling me to trespass, how did that sit with insurance? She has not come back to me.

I will bring up the ploughing and cropping problem at the next LEAF meeting but that is not until October.

I think all R of W policies need to be modified and up dated. I've even seen a policy that is against what the law says which does make me wonder about the training the staff get. I will suggest that Somerset Council, which does love consultations, bring in an expert to help them do this.

I've three planning orders which I haven't looked at yet.

Brenda 09/07/25

5. Summer Walk Programme

Wednesday afternoon walks are only currently listed up to 23rd July. Joy will put out a request for walks this afternoon. There have been a good variety of walks so far this year. Sunday walks have no walks listed at present.

6. TDR AGM on 21st November

Possible venues were discussed as parking at the Friends' meeting house in Taunton has become more of an issue since the Crescent car park was updated. It was decided that Lynda will try to book a room at the HIVE cafe in Trull if there is availability. Otherwise the Friends meeting house.

Les Stather has agreed to speak on Footpath law and this will be followed by the AGM.

7. Compulsory walk leaders training

Ramblers are asking all walk leaders to read the Ramblers Walk Leader Handbook and either complete the walk leader training or, if an experienced walk leader for 3 years who has led 4 walks a year, record their existing experience or qualifications.

Emails are being sent out today 9th July to all walk leaders.

The walk leader training is available online but individual groups will also be able to organise in-person training sessions. Liz will investigate how the in-person training will be achieved.

Walk leaders have until 31st December to complete the training.

We will send out more details to our walk leaders when available and post on our website.

Liz suggested booking a date of Wednesday 10th September for a Walk leader training session, possibly at Nynhead village hall. Barbara will check the hall bookings.

8. Autumn coach trip

Trip to Stourhead on Thursday 2nd October, subject to a coach being available. Liz will book with Ridders.

Short walk of 5- 6 miles to Alfred's tower.

Possible long walk of 7 – 9 miles to White Sheet hill. Lynda will email walk leaders from Sunday walks to ask if anyone would be prepared to recce and lead the walk.

Those not wishing to go on a walk can go round the gardens, free for NT members.

There are toilets and a cafe on site and also the Spread Eagle Inn.

9. **Correspondence**

Email from Ferne Animal Sanctuary advertising their new on-site Perdida's cafe as a walk venue with large car park available. Open Thurs to Mon 10am till 3pm so doesn't really fit in with our walks programme.

10. **A.O.B.**

Do we need to continue paying towards the Zoom subscription if we are holding our meetings in person? It was decided that it is better to hold meetings in the winter months on Zoom so we will continue to pay the subscription.

Date, time and place of next meeting:

Wednesday 22th October at 11am at Barbara's house in Chipley.

Meeting closed at 12.55h