

Committee Meeting 10th February 2025 held at 16:00h on Zoom

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

1. **Apologies:** Barbara C

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 14th October 2024**

These were agreed by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

- **Training session for Walk Leaders**
It was agreed that this went well. 22 members attended although these were mostly walk leaders already who knew what they were doing. Not enough potential walk leaders attended although this is often an issue with a 'training' event. Feedback from those attending said they found it helpful, particularly the OS maps video and the talk about the Ramblers website and the training available there. The venue was good and the room could have held a further 10 people comfortably. This is something we might repeat in the future. Liz thanked those who organised the event.
- **ICE cards**
The new ICE cards are not yet available from the Ramblers, latest email states Spring/Summer 2025 and they will be credit card size and waterproof. Their recent email gave details of how to add emergency contact details to your phone which will be available even if the phone is locked. Committee members were asked to try this out and members should be encouraged to do this.
- **Christmas meal**
25 members attended and all who went enjoyed it. We have been to this venue several times now so time to try somewhere different. There were no long walkers there so maybe try a different format. Lynda suggested a shorter Sunday walk with lunch afterwards although Joy said that some members preferred to get more dressed up for their meal. There could be the option of just having lunch and not doing the walk. Lynda will ask for feedback from Sunday walkers and report back.
- **TDR AGM**
There was not a huge turnout (18 attendees) but the weather wasn't good so that might have been a factor. It was unclear if parking was allowed in the electric charging spaces in the Crescent car park in the evenings so Trevor offered to find out as not many other spaces were available close to the venue. One suggestion was that a speaker might attract more members to the event.

4. Officers' reports:

- **Treasurer's report:**

We have received two payments of £92 from Area so far this year and also donations from Ramblers holidays. The walk leader training costs were £116 and travel expenses from the West Deane waymarkers were £68.

There followed a discussion about what the rules are for spending money from the two accounts, main and self funded. The main account should be for walk related items only such as training and travel expenses. The self funded account can be used towards our trips but these should really aim to break even, as the money is raised by all our members but not everyone goes on a trip. Liz asked if we can use the main account for promoting our group and Gill answered that this is okay. Brenda suggested we could make a donation towards the cost of a new bridge but Gill said we don't really have enough funds for that. Liz asked Gill to produce a couple of lines for the next meeting about how the two accounts can be used to clarify the situation.

Summary	Main	Self funded	Total
Opening balance	707.37	875.35	1582.72
Surplus	-18.28	-80.00	-98.28
Closing balance	689.09	795.35	1484.84

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 November 2024 – 31 January 2025

TDR membership is currently 261 members with 1 affiliated member.

Since 1st November: 10 new members (all new to Ramblers) and 19 members have left (7 lapsed, 12 resigned).

Numbers have dropped slightly but it was good to see 3 potential new members out on last Wednesday's walk. Some shorter walks might encourage new walkers; also Sunday short walks would good for those who aren't able to make Wednesday afternoons. Several of the Committee offered to lead Sunday walks when the weather improves.

- **Footpath officer report:**

There is an 'informal' consultation from R of W for a diversion at Durston The reason is that the path was built over in 2006! The reason for the request **now**, is that there is a request for a change of use on the building.

'In February last year there was a request for Change of use of agricultural building and associated land to light industrial, commercial, general industrial and storage and distribution purposes (pp 16/23/0008).

Condition 3 states No development hereby approved which shall interfere with or compromise the use of footpath T 12/8 shall take place until a path diversion order has been made and confirmed and the diverted route made available.'

There are many path diversions that have been asked for and if a request is made now, it is estimated it will take 30 years before it is heard. This path diversion is being prioritised in the interest of the land user. Should 'they' wait as long as anyone else should?

In September I asked for action to open a path which has been ploughed and cropped. After many attempts to contact Pitminster Parish Council, Rights of Way and the Full Council, so far I have been ignored. I am asking for action to be taken on behalf of path users.

I am minded to object to the diversion at Durston until there is a better balance of parity. Your thoughts would be useful.

Brenda said that she had spoken with Les Stather about the issue at Durston and had also visited the site where the path should be. It is impossible to access the path on the ground and had replied to the Council to this effect and that the application cannot be supported. Looking at the Definitive map in more detail, it can be seen that in 2006 there was a defect listed stating that there was no evidence that this path ever existed but in 2011 it states that this was rectified but no proof was provided.

Brenda also mentioned that there appears to be no training available from the Ramblers for the role of Footpath Secretary other than online, which she doesn't find useful. She has contacted the London office but had no reply.

5. Spring Walk Programme

Joy said that Wednesday afternoon walks have been fairly constant over the winter and there are walks listed until 5th March. Trevor has some booked for April but there are 3 dates available in March. There has been some gaps in the Sunday all day walks but there are now walks listed every week until 9th March as Carol has been contacting walk leaders.

6. OS maps Group subscription

Lynda explained that the subscription is due for renewal but OS have discontinued the group subscription and only offer individual subscriptions now. She emailed those registered to use the group subscription to let them know this and to give them time to ensure their routes

were saved for public viewing. This would allow anyone to find them if they wanted to take out their own personal subscription.

It was decided to renew the TDR subscription as an individual one and Joy offered to do this in her name as she doesn't have her own subscription. This will preserve the routes already saved.

7. Summer coach trip

Joy had seen a 6 mile walk at Heddon's Mouth in North Devon in the Ramblers magazine which looked suitable for the coach trip. Looking at the map in more detail, it was decided that a coach would not be able to access the area due to the narrow lanes. It was therefore decided to try Lynton and Lynmouth instead as these are more accessible. Liz and Trevor will arrange a date to go and have a recce in the near future to check out routes and a cafe.

8. Start time of Wednesday afternoon walks

Lynda had received a request for the start time of Wednesday afternoon walks to stay at 1.30pm during the summer months instead of reverting to 2pm in order to avoid the rush hour traffic in Taunton when returning home. Joy felt it is a rush to get to walks by 1.30pm and would prefer a 2pm start. Liz suggested sending out an email to members to ask those who walk on Wednesdays for their preference. Lynda will arrange this with Val.

9. How to attract new, younger members?

Sunday short walks would be a good starting point. Liz also mentioned using Instagram to promote the group as younger people tend to use this instead of Facebook. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

10. Correspondence

- **West Somerset Railway**

Lynda has received an email from Andrew Warner, a volunteer at West Somerset Railway based at Crowcombe. He says that Crowcombe Heathfield station is NOT one of the most visited on the railway and it is difficult to know why. The station's volunteers are thinking up new ways to boost visitor numbers in the 2025 season. The distance between Crowcombe and Stogumber stations is 3.5 miles and an adult single rail ticket between the two this year will cost £5.50, negating the need to walk back again. He wonders if anyone in our group would be interested in organising an official walk between the stations, either just for our members or open to the general public.

Lynda spoke with Kathy Richardson on Sunday's walk as she lives within walking distance of Crowcombe station. She has offered to lead a walk for the group on a Wednesday afternoon as she regularly walks this route. It was decided to wait for

the summer weather as the tea room at Stogumber has nice gardens to sit in. Lynda will reply to the email to this effect.

- **Children's Hospice South West**

The hospice is currently promoting their Incredible Hike which is a guided hike from Westward Ho! to Tintagel, walking 60 miles in 3 days. Every year they will pick up where they left off, walking to complete the South West Coast Path while raising money for children and young people with life-limiting conditions.

They have asked if we would share this with our members.

Lynda will ask Andy to post this on our website.

11. A.O.B.

Somerset Area AGM

Next Sunday 16th February at Winscombe Community Centre

4.5 mile walk starts at 10am. AGM starts at 2pm

For full details see the Somerset Area website, click here [AGM 2025](#)

This has been advertised on our TDR website.

Brenda is intending to go so will ask a question about whether the Area holidays are going to continue.

Date, time and place of next meeting:

Wednesday 30th April at 11.30h at Liz's house, followed by lunch and a walk from Stoke St Gregory.

Meeting closed at 17.37h.