

Committee Meeting 15th April 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, Peter M (observer)

1. **Apologies:** Barbara C, Brenda P (Footpath Officer).

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 3rd February 2026**

These were accepted by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

- Comeytrowe Lane outcome – this is covered in Brenda's report below
- Footpath clearance – a good idea raised by Brenda. It is the landowner's responsibility to keep a footpath clear to walk. Problems need to be reported via the Somerset Council website. The best people to get involved if there is an issue are the local Parish Council. Liz suggested leaving this issue for now.
- Current walk leaders -Trevor said that we have a core of walk leaders who do lead walks, the issue is how we encourage the others to come forward.
Joy has checked and we now have 26 walk leaders listed who do short walks, 10 for long walks and 3 who do both. A calendar on the TDR website had been suggested, showing which dates are still available but Andy has said that this is not possible currently. Joy can put basic walk details into the Ramblers' walk programme if a date has been reserved, as she had done for Liz's walk today, and then fill in more details once the recce is completed. She offered to email walk leaders to let them know this.
Gill thinks that if we leave gaps in the programme then walk leaders will come forward to offer a walk as this happened in the days when a paper programme was printed.
- Somerset Area AGM 2026 – unfortunately no-one from TDR was able to attend this.
- Numbers of walkers on Wednesday walks. 39 on a walk has not occurred again but there should be contingency plans in place just in case, with a second walk leader available as an option. Charlotte suggested using a booking system but this was not popular when done previously. Numbers on Wednesday walks will continue to be monitored. Gill suggested purchasing hi-vis tabards for the walk leader and back marker to wear on walks and this was agreed by the Committee.

Action: Committee members should try to encourage members to lead walks when possible.

Action: Gill to purchase hi-vis tabards.

4. **Officers' reports:**

- **Treasurer's report:**

Summary	Main	Self funded	Total
Total receipts	407.70	844.00	1251.70
Total payments	220.00	1501.30	1721.30
Surplus/Deficit	187.70	-657.30	-469.60
Account balance	840.19	763.05	1603.24

The payment of £45 mentioned at the last meeting was an error by a member who thought he was paying his Ramblers membership so this has been corrected.

Gill said that there will be 2 separate sets of travel expenses to pay for the Castle Drogo coach trip as the recces for the long and short walks are being done at different times. There will also be expenses for the recce of the walk on the King Charles III coast path.

Gill mentioned the possible purchase of first aid kits, but said that ones available for under £10 do not always contain the recommended items. Liz said that we could look at this again after the first aid course in May and suggested that members bring their own kits with them to the training to check what they contain. We can ask walk leaders if they would be willing to carry a first aid kit on walks if they do not already do so.

Donations received from holidays booked are already at £215 so far this year which is good.

Peter asked if we should spend money on repairing stiles. This would need to go through Somerset Council or the local Parish Council as regulations need to be followed. Any issues found on footpaths should be reported via the Explore Somerset map, a link can be found on our TDR website.

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 February 2026 – 31 March 2026

TDR membership is currently 239 members with 1 affiliated member and 5 pending memberships.

Since 1st February: 3 new members (2 new to Ramblers, 1 rejoined), 3 members have resigned, 2 have lapsed and 1 has moved groups.

Numbers are about the same as at the previous meeting.

- **Footpath officer report:**

Little has changed in footpath matters. We continue to receive complaints of issues on Rights of Way.

We have had one semi success on path WG11/9 reported by Joy. Rubble that was piled up on an illegally diverted path was removed. On the actual walk, members did not have to clamber over the rubble.

However, with advice from Les, I have sent a letter outlining the issues and asking for a plan to resolve them. Some of the many issues on this path go back for 30 years and nothing has been done to resolve them. We gave Rights of Way 20 days to respond with a plan otherwise we will complain to The Local Government Ombudsman.

There has been a response but it is not satisfactory so with help from Les I will work on a response over the weekend.

I met with a lady from County Hall to walk Comeytrowe Lane in response to their consultation on making this a cycle and pedestrian way. I think this was in response to a Government led initiative.

My opinion was, as Les had said, it may be a good idea but any proposal must be protected in law for its maintenance. The present proposal does not cover future maintenance. I said I think it should be made a right of way and so covered by Rights of Way law.

Other paths of this nature have been eventually rendered impassable with no one responsible to maintain it.

Brenda, April 2026

Joy had reported rubble blocking a path at Langford Budville and this was actually cleared very quickly.

Lynda had received an email relating to the proposed closure of a railway crossing in Taunton by Network Rail in 2017 to which TDR had objected. The proposed diversion involved moving the crossing point 500m to the west which was regarded as unsatisfactory. A 17 year old was involved in a fatal collision at the crossing in October 2025 and the email was from a relative who asked for any information about the discussions from 2017. There were two brief reports in TDR committee meeting minutes. Head Office has been contacted for their input in case they have any further records.

Action: Lynda will sent a reply once she hears back from Head Office

5. Spring Walk Programme

There are now walks in the programme for both Wednesdays and Sundays, including some Sunday afternoon walks.

6. First Aid Training Wednesday 6th May 2pm - 4pm

Liz has booked a trainer for this. Diana and Wendy are sorting out a morning walk for 6th May starting at 11am and walkers will need to bring their own picnic. Barbara has booked the hall and will organise tea and coffee. Liz and Lynda both offered to bring a cake. It would be a good opportunity to ask walk leaders to bring their own first aid kits, if they have them already, to look at what they contain.

7. Elan Valley Group holiday

Liz has only received 9 replies and needed at least 15 to make the trip viable. So this will be cancelled, at least for this year.

Action: Liz will contact the Lodge and cancel the provisional booking.

8. Summer Coach trip to Castle Drogo Wednesday 3rd June

Sue Jones is waiting for details of the walks before booking information can be sent out. Trevor and Diana will recce the long walk next Monday 20th April. Paul and Tracey are leading the short walk. There is also the option to wander around the gardens, free to NT members. There is a cafe on site. The coach is booked, a 43 seater due to the size restriction and pick up will be from the junction 25 Gateway P&R.

Action: Trevor to send walk details to Sue once recce is done

9. King Charles III SW Coast Path walk

TDR have been asked to organise a walk along a section of the route. It was decided to have a shorter walk (5- 6 miles) along the coast path on Wednesday 15th July led by Liz, Charlotte and Joy. There will be a longer walk (approx 10 miles) on Sunday 12th July led by Lynda together with one of the other long walkers. Both will start from the Stonebarrow Hill NT car park and head towards Seatown and back. The longer walk will go to Doghouse Hill to add the extra mileage.

Action: Liz/Charlotte/Joy to recce shorter walk. Lynda + 1 to recce longer walk.

10. Correspondence

- Liz had received an email from Head Office concerning Lone Working which included members recce'ing walks by themselves. Most of the Committee don't feel that this is an issue but Liz currently has no further information.
- Ramblers Governance review
Les Stather has mentioned this. Each area has traditionally sent 2 members to the National AGM.

11. A.O.B.

- AGM Friday 20th November 2026.
Liz asked if the Committee would like a speaker at the meeting. It was agreed that Rupert would be booked to speak about First Aid as he had taken part in the recent Ramblers online first aid session.

Action: Liz to contact Rupert. Lynda to book the Friends' Meeting House

- Peter asked if we have policies which our group follow. He was referred to the TDR website which Joy has recently liaised on with Andy to update.
- Trevor mentioned that an incorrect w3w appeared in a recent walk description. Joy explained that the Walks Manager automatically generates a w3w location and this is not usually accurate. The walk leader can include an exact w3w location in the walk description and Joy will use it.

Date, time and place of next meeting:

Wednesday 8th July at 11am. Location to be decided.

Meeting closed at 12.40h