

Committee Meeting 22nd October 2025 held at 11.00am at Barbara's house in Chipley.

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

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 9th July 2025**

These were accepted by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

- **Feedback from Walk Leaders training sessions**
The two sessions were both well attended.
Joy has sent a spreadsheet to head office with the list of walk leaders who attended the sessions so their records will be updated. Those who were not previously registered as walk leaders have been added separately. Joy will contact those who only attended one session to encourage them to complete the training online or to register through having led 12 walks over the last 3 years.
Joy will send Trevor a current list of registered TDR walk leaders.
Trevor also stated that, as a walk leader, you are responsible for recce'ing the route and doing the Risk assessment beforehand but walkers are responsible for their own safety on the walk. Liz said that we all have a duty of care for each other. Trevor said that it is important to put as much detail as possible in the walk description to help walkers make an informed decision whether the walk is suitable for them. Trevor and Joy will look at the TDR website to see if anything needs updating.
There was a discussion about whether we should collect names and contact numbers at the start of a walk. Liz will check with Head office about this.
- **Feedback from Stourhead coach trip**
This was a really lovely day and was well supported. It was decided to have a regular autumn coach trip as well as the summer one.

4. **Officers' reports:**

- **Treasurer's report:**

Summary	Main	Self funded	Total
Total receipts	498.48	365.00	1863.48
Total payments	553.36	830.00	1383.36
Surplus/Deficit	-54.88	535.00	480.12
Account balance	652.49	1410.35	2062.84

Stourhead coach £600
Stourhead recce costs £47.30
Walk leader training sessions £109.00

Gill requested that we have 2 sessions of training a year so she could budget for these. She also suggested making a £2 donation to those who attended first aid training to help towards the cost of a first aid kit. Liz said that we are planning a first aid training session in February and this could be more expensive if we have to pay for the trainer.

It was decided to budget for 2 coach outings and 2 training sessions a year, aiming to break even on the coach outings.

Membership secretary report:

1 July 2025 – 30 September 2025

TDR membership is currently 246 members with 1 affiliated member and 9 pending memberships.

Since 1st July: 14 new members (8 new to Ramblers, 3 new to group, 1 rejoined), 8 members have resigned, 3 have lapsed and 1 has moved groups.

The number of current members is holding steady since the last report.

- **Footpath officer report:**

There has been a flurry of planning cases sent for comment of late. They are often amendments to previous applications but all have further case numbers which I find confusing. These take me a long time to fathom and usually result in no further comment.

The LAF meeting this quarter was cancelled due to 'A lack of items for discussion'. I found this extraordinary and will ask for Ploughing and Cropping to be put on the next agenda.

I've been in further contact with Paul Partington about the Durston Modification: there seems to be very little room for progress due to the highway 'improvements' some years ago which ignored the fact there is a footpath. It is now not possible to use the path at all.

Brenda 20/10/25

Liz mentioned a recent report that showed that over 30,000 footpaths have been deliberately obstructed or fallen victim to neglect across the country. Is this because of a lack of money or a lack of willingness to act?

5. Autumn Walk Programme

There are two more Wednesday afternoon walks listed but 12th and 19th November are both currently vacant. Trevor said that there is a reluctance for walk leaders to offer walks. He feels members are scared to lead walks because of the training and feel they are responsible for the people on their walk. He thinks that Ramblers should take away some of the bureaucracy. Liz suggested that Trevor might attend the Somerset Area AGM in February. The Sunday all day walks are trickling in slowly.

6. TDR AGM on 21st November 2025 6.30pm for 7pm start

The HIVE in Trull has been booked from 6pm to allow for setting up. Joy will buy cakes from the WI shop and Barbara offered to provide tea, coffee and milk.

Les Stather has agreed to speak on Footpath law at 7pm and this will be followed by the AGM at 8pm.

Lynda will ask Andy to put a notice on the website and an email will be sent out to TDR members.

The invoice for the hall hire will need to be paid before the 21st November. Lynda will forward it to Gill for payment.

7. Christmas meal

This has been booked initially for 30 people at the Royal Oak in Hillcommon on Wednesday 3rd December at 1pm. Emails have been sent out to TDR members and so far 14 have booked a place. Joy will add it to the walk programme and also put it on Facebook. Brenda has offered to lead a walk beforehand but it was decided it would be better to do this on a different date as we are currently short of walks.

8. First Aid training

Yvonne has already contacted South West Ambulance and also St John Ambulance who have suggested holding the session at their Headquarters in Canon Street. We need to find out the costs and availability. Barbara was keen that we support the Air Ambulance if they are able to provide the training. A date in February was the preference. Liz will liaise with Yvonne on this.

9. Ramblers group holiday

Liz has been contacted by the Elan Valley lodge in Wales advertising their walking holidays. They have accommodation for up to 36 people, with a minimum number of 15. The cost for

a 2 night fully inclusive weekend is £252 with guided walks. Some TDR members have already stayed here a few years ago when West Somerset had spaces available on their holiday. The Committee were unsure about the uptake if we arrange a holiday here so it will be mentioned at the AGM.

10. **Correspondence**

A letter was sent to Liz by Dave Griffith and a copy given to all the Committee members at the start of the second Walk Leader training session. Dave had asked to talk about his personal experience of walk leadership and Liz had agreed he could speak at the end of the first session if he kept it brief as Barbara was leading a walk straight afterwards. Liz had to end Dave's talk after 10 mins because of time constraints.

The Committee discussed the letter and Lynda will send a reply acknowledging receipt.

11. **A.O.B.**

Joy mentioned walk leaders registering for emergency text services to use in areas where there is limited phone signals. This was covered in the Walk Leader training and Joy will get it added to the TDR website.

The OS app can be used to provide a precise grid reference in case of emergency and also the what3words app.

Date, time and place of next meeting:

Tuesday 3rd February at 1.30pm on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 12.55h