

Committee Meeting 30th April 2025 held at 11.30am at Liz's house at Stoke St Gregory.

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

1. **Apologies:** Gill L (Treasurer)

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 10th February 2025**

These were agreed by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

- ICE cards
The new ICE cards are now available from the Ramblers. Lynda has put in an initial order of 75 but is still awaiting delivery. They will be handed out on walks once received.
- TDR AGM
It was suggested that a speaker might attract more people. Liz thought a talk on Footpath law would be of interest to our members and suggested either Peter Hobley from Somerset Council or Les Stather who is the Somerset Area footpath officer. Brenda will contact Les Stather to see if he would be available on Friday 21st November and willing to speak on this subject.
- Start time of Wednesday afternoon walks
It had been agreed following the survey results that the start time would be the preference of the walk leader so might vary during the summer months.
- West Somerset Railway walk
This went well and was a very enjoyable afternoon. Thank you to Kathy who organised and led the walk.
- Somerset Area AGM
Liz and Brenda attended this. Liz commented that other groups seem to hold more social events.

4. **Officers' reports:**

- **Treasurer's report:**

No report received.

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 February 2025 – 31 March 2025

TDR membership is currently 259 members with 1 affiliated member and 6 pending memberships.

Since 1st February: 7 new members (4 new to Ramblers, 1 new to the group and 2 reinstated) and 3 members have resigned.

- **Footpath officer report:**

Brenda has received a response from Somerset Council to her email regarding the proposed footpath diversion arising from a planning application for change of use of an agricultural building at Durston on footpath T12/8. The footpath is blocked at either end and has been built over.

The Council has revisited the site after receipt of Brenda's email and calculated that the cost of reinstating the access would be £10,000. Also the building obstruction is on someone else's land, not on the planning applicant's. As this is a category 3 footpath (low priority route) it is difficult to justify this use of resources at this time.

The email states that the current application is a very minor amendment to meet planning conditions, without which the planning permission cannot be fully implemented. It resolves all the issues which are within the applicant's direct control and involves no cost to the Council as if the order is confirmed unopposed, all costs are recovered from the applicant.

Brenda is proposing a site meeting at Durston with Somerset Council staff and Paul Partington. This is a site with large industrial barns storing agricultural machinery. Brenda thought it would be an asset to have the path reopened as the alternative route is to walk along the road. Following a discussion it was felt that as this is probably not a well used route and, as there are a lot of other issues that are more important to deal with, our response should be low key. Brenda commented that because the path is not used it has been downgraded, but it cannot be used because either end is obstructed.

Brenda has also been trying to get a path at Pitminster reopened without success. She has a meeting on 6th May with Richard Wilkins who is an elected Council member and suggested that he might like to attend our next Committee meeting to talk to us.

5. Spring Walk Programme

Liz thanked Trevor for doing an amazing job getting Wednesday afternoon walks put in the programme. The next available date for these is 25th June.

The all day Sunday walks are trickling in and Carol has walks offers up to 18th May. The walk on Sunday 11th May has both a long and shorter option.

6. Summer coach trip to Lynmouth on Thursday 5th June

The long walk of 9 miles and the shorter walk of 6-7 miles have both been recce'd. The coach from Ridley's has been booked at a cost of £595 and will leave Silk Mills park and ride at 9am.

Sue has confirmed that 39 members have booked places so far and 38 of these have paid £20 each so the cost of the coach is covered.

Walk numbers currently booked:

Long walk – 8

Shorter walk – 16

Amble – 8

Own plans – 7

One dog is allowed to travel on the coach. Kathy R had asked to bring a dog but is no longer able to come on the trip.

7. Encouraging new, younger members to join

Liz said that Sundays are often the worst day of the week for people on their own and we ought to make an effort to get Sunday afternoon walks up and running again. There were 12 out on the last Sunday afternoon walk. Joy offered to be Sunday afternoon walk co-ordinator and mentioned that the walk Mike is leading on Sunday 11th May has a shorter route as well as an all day option. Liz said that if the Sunday afternoon walks get established then we might look again at Friday evening walks.

It was suggested that we could use our Facebook page more to promote upcoming walks. Sunday afternoon walks will be requested from walk leaders on Wednesday walks.

8. Correspondence

Mountain Warehouse sent an email asking if our members would be interested in an offer of 20% discount on their products for 4 weeks. Lynda has replied asking for a code which can then be sent out to members. This can be used online or in store at the Taunton shop.

9. A.O.B.

National AGM 2025

Brenda attended this meeting in Birmingham.

TDR Walk leaders list

The list of walk leaders held by the Ramblers can now be updated en-bloc. We do have quite a few listed who no longer lead walks. Lynda will send out emails to these members asking if they still want to be registered as walk leaders.

Date, time and place of next meeting:

Wednesday 9th July at 11.30h at Brenda's house in Taunton.

Meeting closed at 12.45h