

Committee Meeting 8th July 2024 held at 16:00h on Zoom

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

Gill L proposed that Barbara C was co-opted as a Committee member, this was seconded by Trevor C and the Committee agreed unanimously.

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 8th April 2024**

These were agreed by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

- Training session for Walk Leaders: see item 6 below
- Coach trip to Swanage
Liz said thank you to everyone who organised the trip, the weather was good and it was a great day out. There were lots of lovely comments and photos on the TDR Facebook page. A big thank you to the walk leaders. About a dozen walkers took the longer route.

4. **Officers' reports:**

• **Treasurer's report:**

The coach trip expenses:

From the Self funded account:

Received from members: £975

Cost of coach: £695

Cafe expenses: 37 x £6 = £222 (2 members who had paid did not turn up so £12 given to driver)

Driver: £12 (plus collection from members)

Total expenditure = £929

Profit = £46

However this does not include the cost of the recce of the walks, approx £150, which was paid for out of the **main account**.

If we hold a training session for walk leaders then the cost of this would be paid for from the main account.

Gill has applied for the minimum funding from the Ramblers again this year. The budget received from Head Office (£1.09 per member + £95) is calculated on group membership numbers which they have told the Area Treasurer is 258 this year. However Val N has quoted 263 and our membership has been steady at this number for a while. Val B has been in touch with Head Office and we have until this Friday to query our budget. Gill asked if the Committee wish her to continue to query the discrepancy and it was decided to let Gill do so if she has the time.

Summary	Main	Self funded	Total
Opening balance	617.26	669.35	1286.61
Surplus	38.66	126.00	164.66
Closing balance	655.92	795.35	1451.27

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 April 2024 – 30 June 2024

TDR membership remains at 264 members with 1 affiliated member.

Since 1st April: 10 new members (all new to Ramblers), 2 rejoined; and 12 members have left (7 lapsed, 5 resigned).

Val also provided a list of new members registered in June.

Following the paper newsletter that was posted out to those 20 members for whom the Ramblers did not hold email addresses, we have been contacted by 3 members with their email address. A further member has resigned from the Ramblers but no-one else has been in touch to say they wish to receive further TDR communications by post so we will no longer be posting these out, just sending out emails to members.

- **Footpath officer report:**

I have replied to this planning application as below.

I have also suggested to the RA Head office in London that we need a campaign to 'encourage' local authorities to do more to process applications for changes to the definitive map. They tell me there is a lot going on 'behind the scenes'!

Taunton Town Council application grinds on very slowly!

Dear Planning Dept,

Thank you for the details of Planning Application 38/19/0129 sent to the Ramblers Association.

I have looked carefully at the plans submitted and also asked Sarah Cresswell if she had received them. Sarah has left her role and no one from Rights of Way has come back to me. In the absence of any other information I will assume Rights of Way have not been informed of this development.

It has long been a vision that any development which interferes with a Right of Way will be embraced and the Right of Way used as an asset.

This development should use the existing Right of Way to enhance the development. In doing so it would encourage access to the countryside; an aspiration long held by many.

As no reference has been made to the existence of the Right of Way that I can see, the Ramblers Association will object to this development.

Yours sincerely,

Brenda Prentice

Liz asked Brenda which footpath will be affected by this planning application and Brenda replied that she could only guess by looking at the map of the development. Brenda has been in touch with Les Stather about the issue. Liz asked if Brenda could check which footpath as there is nothing on the plan from the developers and a footpath number would be useful. The Parish Council has objected to the development.

Brenda is still pursuing the path by the river in Taunton which used to run behind Poundstretchers. 8 witness statements have now been received by Taunton Town Council. 'Active travel' will be replacing the Morrison's footbridge with a wider one suitable for use by both pedestrians and cyclists as part of the boulevard route to the station. The closed footbridge further along the river has the West Deane Way traversing it but the route was apparently never registered!

Brenda has been told that consultation papers are being sent out for the closed Bradford on Tone footbridge as the course of the river has changed so the path needs to be moved.

Trevor asked if there was an ombudsman who could be approached when issues take a long time to be resolved but Brenda said this would be a waste of time. It was suggested that we should send a letter on behalf of TDR to our new MP so Brenda will do this.

5. Summer Walk Programme

The Wednesday afternoon walks have been well attended and walks are booked into August. Trevor is now acting as Walks programme co-ordinator and Liz asked if he would be happy to do this on a permanent basis. They will discuss it on their next walk together.

The all day Sunday walks are also being offered for most Sundays and numbers are usually around the 10 mark. There have been no Sunday afternoon or Friday evening walks so far but we are reliant on members offering to lead a walk.

Trevor mentioned that he was thinking of leading a shorter walk suitable for new starters to the group. He has also received a walk offer from 2 new walk leaders, Amanda and Ian who will need to be registered prior to the walk.

6. Training session for Walk Leaders

Joy has been away so nothing has been progressed with this.

Lots of information relevant to training has now been moved from Assemble to the main Ramblers website. Everyone should have a log in for this website to access this and this can be covered at the training session. There are online training modules available for volunteers and 3 of these are mandatory before a new walk leader can be registered. There is one entitled 'Preventing and managing incidents' which is very comprehensive and includes first aid. It covers recommended kit and types of incidents and how to manage them. Joy suggested that we could use this as part of our training as all the things we previously mentioned are included. Welcoming volunteers and safeguarding are also included.

The Ramblers are recommending one walk leader for every ten members on a walk! We usually have a walk leader and back marker on Wednesday walks due to the high numbers. Trevor had been looking at the training modules and commented that he felt that too much responsibility was being placed on the walk leader, particularly if there was an incident on a walk.

Liz said she found that there were good things in the training such as the walk description should be accurate, and include distance, grading of walk, number of stiles, muddy conditions. She felt that the risk assessment is mostly common sense.

In case of emergency (I.C.E.) cards were mentioned and it would be a good idea if every member filled in one of these and carried it with them on a walk. Lynda will try and get some from Head Office to be given out to members.

New walk leaders will be asked to sign on to the Ramblers website and try the training programme. Trevor will speak to Amanda who has recently offered a walk for the first time. Lynda will speak to Richard L about giving training on the use of the OS app and see if there are any dates he would be available so the Friends' Meeting Place in Taunton can be booked for the training session.

7. TDR AGM on Friday 22nd November 2024 at 7pm

It was agreed to use a similar format to last year. Lynda will book the Friends' Meeting Place.

8. Correspondence

Emails from potential new members asking for further information which have all been replied to.

9. AOB

None

12. Date, time and place of next meeting:

Monday 14th October at 16:00h on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 17.38h