

Committee Meeting 9th January 2023 held at 16:00h on Zoom

Present: Val B (Chair), Gill L (Treasurer), Lynda K (Secretary), Joy W, Carol A.

1. **Apologies:** None

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 12th September 2022**

These were agreed by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

- **TDR AGM**
Currently we have two vacancies on the Committee. No-one has come forward following the AGM. Committee members will ask for volunteers during walks. Joy has received the list of walk leaders registered with TDR from Lynda. Some of these have already been contacted by Richard W and Carol by email. Joy will compose an email to be sent out to the others asking which day(s) they prefer to walk and if they give permission to be contacted by walk co-ordinators. Carol has found that some potential walk leaders are put off by the extra protocol and paperwork now involved but Gill said that the paperwork is minimal.
- **Renewal of OS Maps group subscription** is due in February. All Committee members agreed that this should be renewed.
- **The most recent copy of the Ramblers Walk Attendance register** had been circulated prior to the Committee meeting. It states that the list of contact information is needed for safety purposes e.g. if someone gets separated from the group, and should be destroyed straight after the walk. It was decided by the Committee that we will no longer take a register of names and contact numbers at the start of a walk. If someone is offering to become a walk leader then a contact email address should be requested.
- **The Christmas meal** was enjoyed by those who attended and thanks were given to Joy for organising it. Unfortunately 3 members were unwell on the night and one member forgot the date! Some members had mentioned that a location nearer the centre of Taunton or a lunchtime meal would be preferable so Joy suggested this as an option for next year.

4. **Officers' reports:**

- **Treasurer's report:**

Summary	Main	Self-funded	Total
Total receipts	93.69	90.00	183.69
Total payments	108.88	120.00	228.88
Surplus/(deficit)	-15.19	-30.00	-45.19

The money from Area has been received. Gill has paid some Footpath Secretary travel expenses and also expenses from the AGM. As discussed above, the OS Maps group subscription is due soon which will be £100. Gill said we need to look at spending money on something walk related and asked for suggestions.

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 November 2022 – 31 December 2022

TDR membership remains steady at 264 members.

Since our last meeting: 5 new members (3 new to Ramblers and 2 new to Area); 2 members have rejoined and 3 members have left (2 lapsed, 1 resigned).

- **Footpath officer:**

NB: Phil B has agreed to remain in post until April when the new unitary Somerset Council is launched as no-one else came forward at the AGM.

Report received from Phil:

During the Christmas/New Year period, I submitted objections to a couple of proposals for solar farms – one at Preston Bowyer, and another at Ham in Creech St Michael parish (east of the sewage treatment works). In both cases, there are public rights of way that cross the land where the solar panels would be installed. These are WG7/29 and T13/10 at Preston Bowyer, and T10/27 and T27/8 at Ham. I visited both sites, and decided that the proposed solar farms would significantly affect the ability of walkers to enjoy the countryside by using these paths. Although the paths themselves would not be seriously affected, the views of the countryside from the paths most certainly would be. We now wait to see whether the local planning authority will take the same view.

Joy said that she doesn't totally agree with objecting to these proposals as she feels we should be promoting the use of green energy which would mean more solar and wind farms. The proposals will not affect the use of the footpaths, just the views. Lynda commented that she feels that solar panels could be put on buildings instead of green fields. Joy said that presumably farmers are receiving an incentive to install them on their land. Carol replied that she doesn't think we should object if it is solely because of spoiling the views but she

trusts Phil's judgement. Val said that there are more and more of these solar farms appearing and they will affect enjoyment of walking on footpaths so it is good to keep raising objections so Somerset County Council are aware of the impact and to remind them that the Ramblers are still here.

5. **Winter Walk Programme**

There are Wednesday afternoon walks listed into February but Sunday walks are slow to be offered, probably because of the Christmas break and the weather. Hopefully these will appear soon.

6. **Area AGM Sunday 12th February 2023**

Lynda has a 5.5 mile walk from Hatch Beauchamp village hall to Beercrocombe and Curry Mallet which should be suitable. This will start at 10.30am and hopefully walkers will return to the hall for a picnic lunch at approx 1pm. We will need to provide hot drinks and cakes and someone will need to be at the hall for setting up. Val offered to provide the tea, coffee and milk and Joy offered to buy the cakes from the WI shop as before. The AGM starts at 2pm and Lynda has arranged for a speaker to talk about cider making which will follow the AGM. The hall has cups, plates and cutlery and also a dishwasher. Lynda will provide details of the AGM to be sent to Les Stather to be put on the Area website.

7. **Volunteer travel expenses and Car sharing expenses**

The Ramblers have recently recommended increasing Volunteer travel expenses to 45p per mile. The group needs to decide the rate for Car sharing expenses and the all day walkers are now using 30p a mile which seems to be acceptable so this will be updated on the TDR website.

8. **Correspondence**

A letter received from John O. was circulated prior to the meeting. It was decided that no reply was necessary.

9. **Any Other Business**

TDR own a set of display boards which are currently stored by one of the Committee. They are quite heavy and difficult to transport. They had previously been used to display photos and notices at meetings but have been superseded by the increasing use of the website, the TDR Facebook page and modern technology. It was discussed whether we still need them and one suggestion was to see if the Somerset Area would like them. Lynda will ask Les Stather when she contacts him about the Area AGM.

10. **Date, time and place of next meeting :**

Monday 17th April at 16:00h on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 17.10h