

Committee Meeting 14th October 2024 held at 16:00h on Zoom

Present: Gill L (Treasurer), Lynda K (Secretary), Joy W, Trevor C, Liz H, Brenda P (Footpath Officer), Barbara C. Liz acted as chair in Val's absence.

1. **Apologies:** Val B
2. **Minutes of Meeting on 8th July 2024**
These were agreed by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

Training session for Walk Leaders

- i. Walk leader training is now available online on the Ramblers website and we should promote this. There are 5 courses available, 3 of which are mandatory and have to be completed before a new walk leader can be registered. Amanda has completed the training and found it very helpful and has since led her first walk.
- ii. OS maps app – there is a helpful video on You tube which could be promoted to encourage walk leaders to use it
- iii. We do need to encourage walk leaders to offer walks. It was decided to hold a social event to signpost walk leaders and potential walk leaders in the right direction for the online training, also use of OS maps and finding walks to lead. Following a discussion it was decided to hold the event on a Wednesday afternoon with a short one hour walk first followed by tea and cake and then a presentation.

Ramblers website – Joy

OS maps app – Lynda

Risk assessment – Trevor (Trevor will plan the short walk and demonstrate how he has risk assessed it)

The date of Wednesday 8th January was chosen and a suitable venue would need to be found with car parking available, in or near Taunton. Trull, Bishop's Hull or Staplegrove village hall were suggested so Gill offered to find out if any of these are available. Wi-fi and a projector screen will be needed for the presentation.

This event can then be promoted at the AGM in November.

ICE cards

Head Office is in the process of updating these and Lynda will order some for the group once the new format is available. Hopefully they will be ready for the AGM or the social event when their use can be promoted.

4. **Officers' reports:**

- **Treasurer's report:**

Gill has produced the end of year accounts and sent them to Richard Stone for checking.

There were more donations from holidays than last year.

Walks related items include recce's for the coach trip and travel expenses for checking and replacing the West Deane Way route markers which is ongoing. Brenda was reminded to submit travel expenses for Footpath secretary duties which would come under this item. Admin includes charges for banking cheques.

The cost of the coach trip was covered as we had a full coach.

Socials include the deposits received so far for the Christmas meal. £15 deposit money has been received in cash and by cheque. There will also be AGM expenses and expenses for the social/ training event in January to be included in next year's accounts.

Summary	Main	Self funded	Total
Opening balance	617.26	669.35	1286.61
Surplus	90.11	206.00	296.11
Closing balance	707.37	875.35	1582.72

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 July 2024 – 30 September 2024

TDR membership is currently 267 members with 1 affiliated member.

Since 1st July: 18 new members (all new to Ramblers), 2 rejoined and 17 members have left (2 lapsed, 14 resigned, 1 moved groups).

Val also provided a list of the new members; seven of these were registered as part of the Out There award which is a Ramblers' initiative for 18 to 26 year olds and includes free membership for one year. Liz suggested we contact these younger members to welcome them on our walks.

- **Footpath officer report:**

I have been asked to take the new MP for a walk by Ramblers' London office! I wondered about asking him, his wife and councillors to walk somewhere and explain the problems of not funding the R of W office properly. The results are a 30 year back log on modifications. We could ask the head of R of W to come as well and he can explain the details? I did look into which committee now has responsibility for R of W, it has changed...but can't for the moment remember. A possible route could be Bradford on Tone where the bridge has been

closed since 2009. It's difficult to decide where to take them, and how long to make the walk. So far I have not received a response from the MP but maybe a Saturday in early Spring would be a good time.

I have been looking at a new development at Creech St Michael. There is a right of way very close but I cannot see from their site plan if it is compromised. Developers just don't like putting references to R of W. I have phoned the planning office and they will get the case officer to contact me.

I will be meeting Megan from Taunton Town Council on Thursday for her to update me on the Poundstretcher path I have been asking them to apply for. So far there seems to have been lots of delay and little progress.

Progress on the Bickenhall path, apparently it's now open. I have had no part in that but am pleased that those who have... have achieved this. Well done to them.

And thank you Liz. I didn't know we have a new R of W officer! His details are:

Daniel Gordon, SC Footpath Officer

07584 175257

Daniel.gordon@somerset.gov.uk

5. Autumn Walk Programme

Trevor said that it is proving difficult to get walk leaders to come forward and offer walks. The walk leader training session is definitely needed! Penny, another new walk leader, has offered to lead a walk but will have to complete the online training first before she can be registered.

Joy will prepare a presentation to be shown at the AGM and also at the walk leader social afternoon to signpost the online training on the Ramblers website. If that doesn't help with offers of walks then Liz suggested we contact Ramblers head office to see what they suggest. Trevor will post on the Facebook page when there is a gap in the programme that needs to be filled.

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

Lynda has booked the Friends' Meeting Place from 6pm. Joy offered to buy the cakes again as for previous AGM's and said that Val B will provide the tea, coffee and milk.

Lynda will prepare the emails to be sent out to members about the AGM and asking for volunteers to join the Committee. Both Gill and Lynda indicated that they are happy to stand down if other members are willing to take over the role of Treasurer or Secretary as both have been in post for 5 years or more.

Lynda will also prepare some photos from our walks to be shown at the AGM.

7. Christmas meal

30 potential places have been booked at the Bathpool Inn on Thursday 12th December at 5.30pm. So far 21 members have booked a place and paid a £5 deposit. A further email will be sent out to remind members who wish to book a place to do so by 31st October.

8. Correspondence

John O emailed in response to the recent request for walks to say he is happy to welcome any enquiries regarding possible routes for walks. It was mentioned that the walks box contains several of the walk books and calendars that John referred to in his email so these can be used by walk leaders.

9. AOB

- Gill has now received the invoice for the one third share of the Zoom subscription which we have agreed to pay to Barbara to set up our Committee meetings. Gill said that this will be paid as soon as possible and thanked Barbara for her help.
- Barbara asked if we have a list of walks which have taken place recently? Trevor has kept a list of recent routes. Gill said not to worry if the walk is similar to a previous one as people come out on the walk for company as much as anything. Also walks vary according to the time of year. Barbara mentioned a route which is a Taunton Deane circular walk to Norton Fitzwarren which crosses the A358 Taunton to Minehead road near to Norton Manor camp which she felt wasn't a safe place to cross with a group of walkers. Barbara asked if Brenda could tell Taunton Deane that this is no longer a safe route and she agreed. Gill said there is another one where the route is over a bridge at Bishop's Hull which has been closed for a long period and the leaflet is still available at the Tourist Information Centre in Taunton despite being told that the bridge is closed. Brenda also mentioned that the West Deane Way crosses a bridge in Taunton which has now been removed. Lynda said that she and Phil Bisatt are nearing the end of the checking the WDW markers and will follow the route through Taunton when they reach it. Liz suggested Brenda bring up these issues when she speaks with Megan from Taunton Town Council.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting:

Monday 27th January at 16:00h on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 17.37h.