

Committee Meeting 17th April 2023 held at 16:00h on Zoom

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

1. **Apologies:** Joy W
2. **Minutes of Meeting on 9th January 2023**
These were agreed by the Committee.
3. **Matters arising:**
 - Lynda still has the set of TDR display boards. Les Stather already had a set in his garage so didn't need them for the Area and no response had been received from the mention on the TDR website. It was decided to advertise them for sale on Facebook Marketplace for £50 and see if this gets a response.
4. **Officers' reports:**
 - **Treasurer's report:**

	Main	Self-funded	Total
Opening balance	573.12	845.85	1,418.97
Surplus/(deficit) on R&P	-62.11	341.00	278.89
Closing balance	511.01	1,186.85	1,697.86

Coach trip - £380 paid by members with 2 cheques to bank so this means 20 places are booked so far. We need 25 places booked to break even with the cost of the coach.

We need to look at the self funding money-is there anything we need that fits in with the Ramblers ethos?

Gill mentioned that she is now paying Volunteer travel expenses at 45p per mile as recommended by Head Office.

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 January 2023 – 31 March 2023

TDR membership has increased to 276 members.

Since our last meeting: 19 new members (16 new to Ramblers, 1 new to Area and 2 new to the group); 2 members have rejoined and 9 members have left (4 lapsed, 2 resigned, 1 moved and sadly 1 has deceased).

- **Footpath officer:**

Since the last Committee meeting, I have met with the British Horse Society and Les Stather (Ramblers Area FPS) regarding a potential diversion of T2/1 in Bickenhall parish, together with possible dedication by the landowner of a connecting permissive section of the Herepath. BHS are also seeking to have Grughay Lane added to the definitive map as a bridleway. Taken together, these measures would potentially enable the need to walk on road past the RSPCA Centre at West Hatch, where there are no verges, to be reduced.

There seems to be agreement that these are good ideas, but progress will depend on agreement between the landowner, the Highway Authority and the various parties, possibly involving some funding. I will provide updates as things proceed.

I have also met with a local resident at Milverton regarding WG7/17 at Creedwell Orchard, where the path is in danger of collapsing into an excavation made by the landowner. Following my report, Les Stather is now taking up the matter at Area level with Somerset Council.

I have received a consultation regarding the proposed diversion of T17/61 at Hill Farm, in North Curry parish. You may remember that I was invited by the landowner to meet with him and discuss this back in late-2021. Matters are finally moving forward. I have replied positively to Somerset Council, pointing out that the path has been obstructed by buildings for probably 50 years, and its reopening would be of significant public benefit. Hopefully this is what will now happen.

I have also helped the Group Secretary with walking and re-waymarking sections of the West Deane Way. To date, we have covered the route from Staplegrove as far as West Bagborough. As well as replacing some missing waymarks, we have added new ones where additional opportunities exist, such as on a recent fingerpost at West Bagborough, which was not present when we first put the waymarks up.

Finally, I should say that am willing to continue as FPS for the Group for at least the remainder of this year.

Phil Bisatt

5. Spring Walk Programme

There are Wednesday walks until the end of May and all day Sunday walks in May and into June with some gaps. There is the option of a shorter 5.5 mile walk included in Mike L's all

day Bluebell walk on Sunday 30th April and Gill led an afternoon walk last Sunday. Tim K has offered to stand down as Sunday afternoon walk co-ordinator if anyone else wishes to take on the role as he intends to walk on the all day walks in future. Gill said that she had talked about perhaps having Sunday afternoon walks twice a month with those members who walked with her last Sunday.

It was mentioned that occasionally one of the Wednesday walks has been much longer than advertised in the programme and this could be a problem for some members.

6. Coach trip to Instow

We have had a good response so far with 20 places booked. We need to recce the two walks so Val will drive four of us and do the shorter walk with Joy from Instow. Lynda and Carol will be dropped off at a suitable point and recce the longer walk. A date was arranged for Thursday 18th May (this was changed after the meeting to Thursday 11th May as Joy was not available on the 18th). Daphne H will be asked for walk suggestions as she has lived in the area and knows it well. We will then send out a reminder to members with further details of the walks to encourage them to book places.

7. Correspondence

An email had been received from The Ramblers head office about the South West Coast Path (SWCP) 50th Birthday celebrations. This offers the chance to join the SWCPA team as they relay walk the 630 mile SWCP, beginning in Minehead on 12th May and South Haven Point on 27th May, with both walks completing on Thursday 15th June 2023. Places can be booked via Eventbrite:

[SWCPA 50th Anniversary Trailblazer Walk | Eventbrite](#)

Each day has been split into a morning and an afternoon walk with an hour's break for lunch. The first day from Minehead is now fully booked. It was decided that it was complicated to arrange transport for a group to attend as these are linear walks so it will be advertised on the TDR website in case individual members wish to take part.

8. Any Other Business

None

9. Date, time and place of next meeting :

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

Meeting closed at 16.55h