

**Committee Meeting 17th July 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 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023**  
These were agreed by the Committee.
3. **Matters arising:**
  - The set of noticeboards were eventually sold for £25 to a Wildflower charity group and Lynda was paid in cash. Phil B has also mentioned the Footpath maintenance equipment which is currently stored in his parents' garage which he would like moved. It was decided to discuss with Phil and Somerset County Council about the possibility of restarting Footpath maintenance.
  - The Coach trip to Instow was very successful and the Committee has received good feedback about the walks and the refreshments afterwards which everyone enjoyed.
4. **Officers' reports:**
  - **Treasurer's report:**

The coach trip to Instow went well. All expenses are paid. As agreed, we have used profit from last year's trip to limit the cost of this year's trip.

|              |          |
|--------------|----------|
| Coach        | -£595    |
| Refreshments | -£290    |
| Recce– walks | -£ 94.40 |
| Income       | +£780    |
| Balance      | -£199.40 |

We received a £100 donation from Ramblers Holidays due to TDR members booking holidays through them.

The Footpath Secretary's expenses have increased again now Covid restrictions are no longer in place and there are more visits required.

Gill will be applying for the minimum Budget Allocation from Head Office this year.

|                          | Main         | Self-funded    | Total           | Prior yr       |
|--------------------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Total receipts           | 375.69       | 870.00         | <b>1,245.69</b> | 1,325.58       |
| Total payments           | 294.65       | 1,108.40       | <b>1,403.05</b> | 1,476.75       |
| <b>Surplus (deficit)</b> | <b>81.04</b> | <b>-238.40</b> | <b>-157.36</b>  | <b>-151.17</b> |

- **Membership secretary report:**

**1 April 2023 – 30 June 2023**

TDR membership has increased to 277 members.

Since our last meeting: 9 new members (6 new to Ramblers, 1 new to Area and 2 new to the group); 8 members have left (4 lapsed, 3 resigned, 1 moved).

Val included a list of new members' names and we have seen several joining us on recent walks.

- **Footpath officer report:**

Since the last Committee meeting, I have been liaising with Les Stather, Area FPS, about Network Rail's proposed permanent closure of footpath WG17/17 across the railway at Wellington. Given that the alternative route is about 8 times longer than the existing right of way, it has been decided that Ramblers will object, even though the crossing has been closed 'temporarily' for some years.

I have been consulted for a second time regarding the proposed solar farm at Preston Bowyer. The applicant is proposing to reduce the area of land covered by panels so that the existing public footpath, T13/10, would run along one side of the panels, rather than through the middle of them. However, I do not think this changes the basic reasons for objecting to the scheme, and I have written to the Local Planning Authority saying so.

I have recently been contacted by a local resident regarding a planning application at West Buckland, which will involve the diversion of an existing footpath. The landowners have already moved the path without consent, and the proposed route of the path in the planning application is too narrow. I have agreed that I will look further into this.

I have also continued to help the Group Secretary with walking and re-waymarking sections of the West Deane Way. We have now covered the route from Staplegrove as far as Wiveliscombe. As well as replacing some missing waymarks, we have added a number of new ones where additional opportunities exist. For example, several new fingerposts have been erected fairly recently north of Wiveliscombe, which provide an opportunity for WDW signage.

Phil Bisatt

150723

**5. Summer Walk Programme**

No Wednesdays have been missing a walk and there have been good numbers of walkers. There are walks listed until the end of August and Liz H is doing well with recruiting new walk leaders. There is one short Sunday walk a month on average and we could do with a new walk co-ordinator for these as Tim is now joining the long walks. We will leave the Friday evening walks for the moment and concentrate on Sunday afternoons instead.

There are currently no Sunday all day walks listed but Carol is hopeful that these will appear again soon.

Joy mentioned that she is getting more familiar with the new Walks Manager but is having to add the contact details for each walk leader each time. She has put together an email to ask walk leaders to log on to Assemble and give their permission for their contact details to be shown on our website when they offer a walk so they appear without her having to enter them. She will email it to the other Committee members to try it first and give feedback.

**6. Christmas meal 2023**

The Committee discussed whether we should have a lunchtime meal or one in the evening. This had been talked about on the Wednesday afternoon walk and also on the Coach trip and numbers seemed fairly evenly split between the two. It had also been suggested that a town centre venue might be more convenient. Three venues were suggested: The New Mill at Bathpool (where we went last year and which was very good), Zizzi's and Wildwood. Val offered to check out these venues and would book one of them for 40 people.

Sue J has kindly offered again to handle the bookings. She did a brilliant job with the Coach trip and the Committee were very grateful for her help.

**7. Coach trip 2024**

After a discussion about where to go next year it was decided that Committee members would investigate possible locations within 1 to 1.5 hours travelling time with suitable walks and somewhere for refreshments afterwards. These will be discussed at the next Committee meeting.

**8. Any Other Business**

TDR AGM Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at the Friends' Meeting House in Taunton.

Refreshments from 6.30pm, AGM starting at 7pm.

Lynda will book the venue. Refreshments of tea/coffee and cake, the same as last year.

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

Monday 23<sup>th</sup> October at 16:00h on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 17.04h