

Committee Meeting 4th October 2021 held at 16:00h on Zoom

Present: Val B, Gill L, Lynda K, Joy W, Richard W.

1. **Apologies:** Phil B, Jane L.

2. **Minutes of Meeting on 26th July 2021:**

These were agreed by the Committee.

3. **Matters arising:**

- **Printed Newsletter/Walk Programme**
The recent Autumn Newsletter was sent out to the majority of TDR members by email. A paper copy was sent out to the remaining 37 members with a request for an email address, if available, for future use. Val N has since received 5 email addresses.
- **TDR Christmas meal**
Booking details were included in the recent Newsletter for the meal at the Cosy Club as a deposit of £10 per person was required by 1st October. Gill confirmed that 24 members had booked a place and paid a deposit, which had then been paid to the Cosy Club.
- The former Rambler wishing to sell equipment through the website has been given Joy's telephone number to contact but nothing further has been heard.

4. **Officers' reports:**

• **Treasurer's report:**

Gill has produced the end of year report to 30/09/2021 which will be the same report for the AGM. Very little has happened this year due to Covid. We received the minimum amount from head office and this will be the same for the coming year. In total Gill received £240 as deposit for the Christmas meal (£50 received after the accounts closed). Deposit paid to the Cosy Club on 01/10/2021. The accounts are in a healthy state.

	Main Account	Self funded	Total
Closing Balance	£635.29	£934.85	£1570.14

- **Membership secretary report:**

1 July 2021 – 30 September 2021

TDR membership remains steady at 262 members since our last meeting; 4 new members, 2 rejoined, 1 lapsed member, 4 resigned and 1 moved. We also have two Affiliated Members who receive our emails.

- **Footpath officer:** Report received from Phil:

Since the last Committee meeting, the main item I have been involved with is the merging proposals for the A358. I have been in discussion with Highways England's consultants, and a Zoom meeting between myself, Les Stather (Area FPS), Stuart Thomson (South Somerset Group), and a representative of the British Horse Society is due on 4th October (unfortunately at the same time as this meeting).

The intention is that Ramblers will provide some formal comments to Highways England separately from the wider public consultation that is being arranged.

At the moment the plans that have been made available are confidential but I can say that, in my opinion, there are some significant issues for walkers on the section of route within Taunton Deane Group's area. Clearly I would like Highways England to make some changes to its current proposals, and I hope that this will become the formal position of Ramblers in due course.

The only other item is that it was pleasing to note, on a recent Group walk, that an unwalkable section of a path near Curland that I had reported to SCC, had been cleared by the landowner. The landowner was not at fault, as the definitive route passed through a hedge bank and was probably never walkable, but a cut through the bank has been made, and people no longer need to technically trespass to get round.

- **Area officer:**

Nothing to report at present

5. **AGM on Friday 26th November at 4.30pm on Zoom**

All Committee members present confirmed that they are willing to stand for re-election at the AGM in their current roles. Jane has also confirmed she is willing to stand for re-election as Social Secretary. Phil has confirmed that he is willing to stand for re-election as Footpath Officer but intends to stand down as Area Officer. Joy will ask the other three Walk Programme Co-ordinators if they are happy to continue. Lynda will contact Dave Patten to ask if he is willing to continue as the Webmaster for TDR.

Details about the AGM, to include the Agenda, instructions on how to join the meeting on Zoom and also a nomination form for anyone who wishes to stand for election as an Officer or Committee member, will need to be sent out to all TDR members, either by email or by post. Lynda will action this. Officer reports will need be posted on the TDR website the week prior to the AGM so everyone has time to read them before the meeting.

If no other nominations are received then someone will be required to propose and to second the Committee members for re-election 'en masse' at the AGM.
Val will prepare a Chairman's address for the AGM.

6. Autumn/Winter Walk Programme

This will continue to be listed on the TDR website.

7. AOB

- West Somerset Ramblers have some spaces available for their group holiday at Elan Valley Lodge, Rhayader, in mid-Wales and they have opened these up to members of the other Somerset groups, including Taunton Deane. Val N will send out an email to TDR members advertising this.
- Val and Lynda have received an email today from Timothy French, a Ramblers member, regarding a long-standing issue concerning an obstructed bridleway T2/11 in Bickenhall. Lynda will forward the email to Phil as he has been dealing with this previously. Tim mentioned that he will be attending the AGM and asked that the matter be on the agenda and noted that Phil alluded to it at last year's AGM in his Footpath Officer's report.
- Joy mentioned that the 'Attention - New walk leaders' section of the Noticeboard page of the website needs updating. Richard now holds the TDR walk box so the contents of this (excluding equipment such as GPS receiver and whistles) will be advertised on the TDR website with Richard's name and contact details so that walk maps and walk books can be loaned out to members looking for walk suggestions to try, and also to encourage new walk leaders. Joy will action this and contact Dave Patten. Gill proposed that if Dave was agreeable, we could use some of the funds available to upgrade the website and the Committee members present agreed. Joy will mention this to Dave.
- Gill asked if we would wish to increase the number of TDR Committee members as had happened occasionally in the past. After discussing this, the Committee will continue to consist of the three Officers and four other members of the group as stated in the TDR Constitution.

8. Date, time and place of next meeting :

Monday 10th January at 16:00h on Zoom.

Meeting closed at 17.16h