

Minutes from Severnside Committee meeting held on 12 January 2015.

Those present:

Allan Davies, Chris Everett, Chris Gaymer, Joy Harrison, Ken Mill, Peter Randall, Heather Rickards, Jean Williams.

Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

1. **Welcome.** Heather opened the meeting and thanked all for attending.
2. **Apologies for absence.** Sue Driver, Gloria Drury, Gill King.
3. **The minutes from the committee meeting** held on the 1 September 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**
 - 4c. *Brecon Trip.* This took place last September. Very successful. Thanks to Mike and Ken for walk planning and leading.
 - 4d. *Coach trip to coast.* Various suggestions for location, including New Forest. Committee to invite input from members before next meeting.
 - 5b. *Parking issues.* No further issues.
 - 5g. *Seeking Andy Pearson's permission for use of photographs on new web pages:* permission granted.
 7. *AGM.* Peter was thanked for arranging the AGM and the talk by the County Air Ambulance. £155 plus donations on the day were received by the charity with thanks. It was decided to look for an alternative venue for this year's AGM. Suggestions were made for the Chantry in Thornbury or Patchway, Coniston Way.
 10. *Holiday cancellation.* Peter pursued the matter of non-refund of a deposit with HF, and eventually spoke to a higher official who decided that HF were within their remit to have acted as they did. No further action.

5. Officers' Reports:

These were circulated prior to the meeting, but with additional discussion:

Social Secretary's report. (Gill King)

None received. It was decided that despite having an excellent turnout for Christmas lunch at the Farmer's Table, Tortworth, a new venue should be sought for 2015.

The trip to Exmoor in October was a great success.

People are being slow to book places for the forthcoming Quiz at Filton Golf Club. Jean has handed out many flyers, an email has recently been sent out and it will be included in the newsletter.

Chairman's report. (Heather Rickards)

'Welcome to the old faces and to the new!

As always, I look forward to working with you all.

The Christmas walk and meal was very enjoyable. Thank Gill. Perhaps we need a larger venue for next year!

The coach trips seem very popular. We should decide whether to have one in 2015 and choose a destination.

Additional considerations for 2015 include The Forgotten Landscape Project and the Aust – Avonmouth walking route. I am sure that Ken will update us on these enterprises.

I have been told that I am expected to Chair the Avon Area Committee. (Avon Area is a middle body which operates between groups like Severnside and the Ramblers HQ). I have refused to take on this role although I realise this will cause some inconvenience to Avon Area. I will be asking you formally at the meeting whether any of you wish to take this post. (I have already asked most of you informally).'

Nobody volunteered to take on the role for the Avon Area committee in the meeting. Ken volunteered to add the request to the website.

Ken reported that the changes to Governance proposed by Ramblers HO had received a lot of negative feedback and a low response to the survey.

Secretary's report. (Chris Everett)

'Numbers have increased slightly from 151 to 154. The people who have left weren't names familiar to me, and the new people haven't shown up on any walks as far as I'm aware. The group have been supportive of Doreen Luffman who lost her husband just before Christmas. Several members attended Derek's funeral. We've sent cards for some significant birthdays recently too, as Bob was 80, Robert M was 70 and Ken is now 60.'

Treasurer's report. (Peter Randall)

Group Account

The bank balance as at 31st December was £864.67 (adjusted to include p/cash to £885.16)

As far as I am aware there is nothing outstanding but we are gathering monies for later use in connection with the "Forgotten Landscape" project.

Social Fund Account

The bank balance as at 31 December was £1,827.30 (adjusted to include p/cash to £1,898.25)

We are currently holding the deposits for Isle of Wight which are due on 11th January so the major portion of this will disappear in a few days.

I gather Gill still has a couple of cheques for the Xmas Lunch and Heather has further deposit monies for IoW.

Walk co-ordinator's report. (Joy Harrison)

All dates filled.

Footpath Officer's report. (Allan Davies)

Nothing to report.

Publicity Officer's report. (Sue Driver)

All progressing well. No issues to report.

Web editor's report. (Ken Mill)

Website – nothing to add from last report.

Forgotten Landscape Project – Heritage Lottery funding has been awarded for the next 3.5 years. This will allow the delivery phase to go ahead. The project is entitled 'A Forgotten Landscape' and aims to restore the heritage of the Lower Severn Vale Levels as well as improving access and creating volunteering and learning opportunities.

The project area is the foreshore and coastal floodplain of the River Severn from Avonmouth (including Lawrence Weston) in Bristol up to the boundary of South Gloucestershire and Gloucestershire.

For more information see <http://www.aforgottenlandscape.org.uk/>

Coastal Access – Aust to Brean

For Severnside we're interested in the route from Aust to Avonmouth. In particular improvements to the Severn Way.

Stage of progress

Stage 1: Prepare

Natural England are:

- holding discussions with national and local organisations as well as interested individuals to get their ideas and concerns about current access along this stretch;
- assessing the problems, opportunities and constraints for improving access along this stretch of coast;
- seeking to identify owners and occupiers of land that might be affected.

For more information see <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-aust-to-brean-down>

6. Feedback for:

a. Forgotten Landscape - Mike has agreed to remain our representative until such time as he moves from the area. The project has received a Lottery Grant, and the council are now in the process of staffing the project.

b. Aust-Avonmouth Walking Route. (Ken Mill)

Stage 1 of the project is discussion with landowners to minimise the amount of road walking involved in extending the coastal access route. Different agencies including Natural England are engaged in discussion with local councils, and the Forgotten Landscape project will be included in the overall plan.

c. Isle of Wight holiday (Heather Rickards)

There has been a good take-up for the holiday. Heather and Jamie have agreed to lead the walks, and Ken volunteered to lead if required, and lent Heather a book of walks for the area.

7. Any other business

a. Closing date for submission for next programme to be 6/5/15.

b. Ramblers Worldwide Holidays would like to make a presentation to the group. We will consider inviting them to the next AGM. They are offering a cheap 3-day break in the Wye Valley to group organisers, which will include a presentation.

8. Date and venue of next meeting

Thur 7 May 2015 Chris Everett's home. 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 8.55pm.