

SEVERNSIDE RAMBLERS GROUP

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 22 November 2009 at The Jubilee Hall, Alveston

PRESENT:

Jill Fysh (Chairman), Sylvi Garratt (Treasurer), Jean Aellen (Secretary / Membership Secretary), Jenny Aspinall (Footpath Secretary), John Lewis (Footpath Secretary), Ken Mill (Webmaster), Chris Roberts (Committee Member), Gill King (Committee Member), Leslie Davison, Pauline Hart, Joyce Powell, John Carter, Chris Carter, Allan Davies, David West, Irene Skeates, Joy Harrison, Sue Bowerman, Heather Rickards, Andy Pearson, Chris Gaymer, David Jefferies, Carolyn Muston

Copies of the agenda, Minutes of 2008 AGM and Officers' reports were circulated to those present.

- 1.09 Jill Fysh, Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed those present.
- 2.09.1 **Apologies** for absence were received from: Don Ford, Sally Wilton, Helen Briggs, Jill Field, Gareth Rees, Chris Everett, Steve McNeill, Robert Muston, Glenda Hewertson. Pauline Smith, Janet Milne, Mike Norman
- 3.09 **Minutes of the previous AGM** were accepted as an accurate record subject to the following changes:
 - (i) **Add to the end of Minute 6.08:**
Appointment of Representative to the governing body of the Area: Ken Mill offered to take on this role.
Appointment of independent examiner or examiners: Louise Mill agreed to undertake this role.
 - (ii) **Minute 7.08 (i)** change 'gallon' to 'litre' in fourth and fifth lines of the second paragraph of the minute.

Gill King proposed and Ken Mill seconded that the Minutes be accepted and signed. The Chairman signed the Minutes.

- 4.09 **Matters arising from the Minutes:**
Minute 6.08: Jenny Aspinall asked why Ken Mill's position as Webmaster was not shown in the Minutes. The Chairman explained that Ken had not taken up the appointment at the time of the 2008 AGM.
- 5.09 **Officers' Reports**
 - (i) **Chairman's** report as circulated.
 - (ii) **Secretary and Membership Secretary's** report as circulated. Leslie Davison asked what the situation was with being in several groups. He had made three attempts to join Severnside Ramblers on-line but had problems with the Ramblers website and was now in Bristol Group. He walked with both groups and received Severnside programme electronically. Jean explained that once a member of Ramblers one could walk with any Group. Because Leslie received the programme electronically there was no problem, but if a member from another Group wished to receive the Severnside programme in hard copy they were asked to provide the Secretary with stamped self-addressed envelopes for the purpose. Allan Davies had recently joined but had not received the Severnside programme. Jean asked if he would let her have his membership number and email address and she could check his membership details.

- (iii) **Treasurer's** report as circulated. The accounts had been audited and signed by Louise Mill in her capacity as independent examiner. The Group had received 100% of the funding allocation requested and had not suffered the 25% reduction proposed by Ramblers Central Office.
Sylvi and Jill Fysh explained that 'walk out costs' were those associated with the travel costs of 'pre-walking' eg bridge tolls, petrol costs etc. Most walk leaders did not claim but Ramblers' rules allowed claims to be made and one member had carried out a particularly high level of pre-walks in the year.
- (iv) **Footpath Secretaries'** report as circulated. Jenny Aspinall thanked Ken Mill for the footpaths page on the website where there was information from South Gloucestershire Footpaths Officer (Ron Phelps) and Ramblers Head Office. If there were problems these could be submitted directly to South Gloucestershire or nationally by the person reporting the matter. Problems were not always sorted out quickly but often even though progress was slow the problem was being worked on.
Tytherington had been concentrated on in the previous year because there was no Parish Warden. One had now been appointed. Bradley Stoke did not have a Warden and Joy Harrison had said she would keep an eye open for problems in the area. Jenny asked if there was anyone who lived in the Falfield area as there was no warden there. Jean suggested the Group would not have members from the Falfield area because of allocation to Groups by postcode.
There had not been many footpath clearances done. These took time to organise and South Gloucestershire now had contractors to do clearance. Severnside had carried out some clearance in Tytherington and Oldbury. There were several more areas to be cleared in Oldbury. Jenny asked anyone interested in helping to contact her so she could ring them when permission for clearance was given. She would require date of birth and Ramblers' membership number because details had to be registered for insurance purposes. Jenny and John proposed to concentrate on Falfield in the coming year.
- (v) **Publicity Officer's** report as circulated. Jill Field had retired from the Committee because of work commitments. Jill Fysh thanked her for the work she had done for the Group.
- (vi) **Webmaster's** report as circulated. Ken Mill told the meeting that the internet service provider supplied statistics as part of the service hosting the Severnside site. There had been 2400 visitors to the site since April 2009, with approximately 10 visitors each day. The bulk of visits had been via broadband access but there were still some who accessed the site via dial-up. It was for this reason that Ken kept the website simple and without large pictures that took a long time to load. With the WebPlus Design Software it was easy to keep the site up to date. Ken had retained the internet service provider, for which there was a charge of £50 per annum, because the service provider had been used by Geoff Mullett who had set up the original website and they provided a good reliable service.
Jill Fysh stated that there had been no photographs submitted since August 2009. She asked that people send in to Ken (either by email or on disc) any photographs taken on walks so that visitors to the website would see up to date pictures of our walks.
- (vii) **Walks Co-ordinator** as circulated. Jill Fysh had carried out the role for the past year. She also had a number of other roles and requested that someone else take over as Walks Co-ordinator. The position had been advertised but no-one had come forward.
Chris Roberts mentioned the high numbers of walkers who had turned out for flower walks. Jill Confirmed this was the case and that in future there would be no reference to flowers in the walks programme! She also proposed that if there were very high numbers in future that it would be better to split the walk into two groups with the groups going in different directions.

Pauline Hart asked how long it took to prepare the walks programme. Jill replied that it took her about two evenings for each programme. The walks were put on the website electronically and then emailed to her. She saved the details and cut and pasted them onto the walks programme. If there were not enough walks she would contact the walk leaders and request help.

Jill told the meeting that if anyone took on the role they would receive all the help they need from Ken and her.

Chris Roberts proposed a vote of thanks to Jill for all the work she does for Severnside Group.

6.09 Retirement of Current Committee Members

Under the terms of the constitution the current committee members stood down and David Jefferies took the chair.

7.09 Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members

Some nominations had been received and were proposed and seconded as follows:

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Group Chairman	Jill Fysh	David Jefferies	David West
Group Secretary & Membership Secretary	Jean Aellen	Gill King	Jill Fysh
Group Treasurer	Sylvi Garratt	Heather Rickards	Jenny Aspinall
Group Footpath Secretary	Jenny Aspinall & John Lewis	Gill King	Ken Mill
Group Publicity Officer	Heather Rickards	Jean Aellen	John Lewis
WebMaster	Ken Mill	David Jefferies	Joy Harrison
General Committee	Chris Roberts*	Jenny Aspinall	Sylvi Garratt
General Committee	Gill King*	Chris Roberts	Heather Rickards

*Joint Social Secretaries

Jill Fysh asked Andy Pearson if he would be prepared to be a General Committee member and he agreed. This was proposed by Jenny Aspinall and seconded by Sylvi Garratt.

Joy Harrison volunteered to be Walks Co-ordinator. This was proposed by Carolyn Muston and seconded by Sue Bowerman.

There was no nomination for Countryside Officer. The position had never been filled in the Group, but there was an Area Countryside Officer.

David Jefferies was thanked for his assistance and Jill Fysh took the chair. Jill told the meeting that she would like the Group to continue to grow in the same way that it had over the past two years. She also told the meeting that Chris Roberts and Gill King had offered to act as Joint Social Secretaries. Jill asked that any members with ideas for social events should let Chris and/or Gill know.

8.09 Appointment of a representative to the governing body of the Area

Ken Mill was prepared to continue in this role, particularly as he was responsible for the Area website.

9.09 Appointment of independent examiner or examiners

Louise Mill had offered to undertake this role. Her appointment was proposed by Gill King and seconded by Sylvi Garratt.

10.09 Ramblers 75th birthday celebrations 2010 – baton walk

Ramblers had proposed that each Group do a local 'baton walk' to celebrate the Ramblers' 75th birthday. The baton would not be passed from Group to Group. Severnside's walk would be in January and, as the programme was already set, it was proposed that Joy Harrison's walk on Saturday 23 January 2010 at Tockington may be appropriate. Joy agreed. The Secretary undertook to ensure Joy had the baton for the walk. Walkers would be invited to bring a flask with a 'tipple' to toast the 75th birthday.

Jill advised the meeting that there would be a joint walk with Brunel Group on 14 February 2010 which would be advertised in the next programme. There would be a pub stop at the end of the walk.

11.09 Any Other Urgent Business

(a) Festival of Winter Walks – 26 December 2009 to 3 January 2010

There were five walks on the programme. Heather had prepared posters and those present were asked to take posters to display in local libraries and other locations to advertise the events.

(b) Group Walking Weekend:

Elan Valley - Friday 3 to Sunday 5 September 2010

Gill King was organising a walking weekend at Elan Valley Lodge. The cost would be £145.50 per person to include dinner, bed and breakfast, packed lunch on two days, tea and coffee throughout the stay with home made cake on Friday and Saturday. A local guide would plan walks to suit the group and weather conditions. A £10 deposit was required for each person and the balance was payable on the weekend. Full details would be in the next programme.

12.09 Date, time and place of next meeting

The next meeting would be held at a similar time of year in 2010.

Jill Fysh thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

The meeting closed at 2.20 pm.