

Minutes from Severnside Committee meeting held on 9 January 2014.

Those present:

Allan Davies, Sue Driver, Chris Everett, Chris Gaymer, Joy Harrison, Gill King, Ann Light, Ken Mill, Mike Norman, 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.** None.
3. **The minutes from the committee meeting** held on the 3 September 2013 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Peter Randall proposed and Gill King seconded that the minutes be accepted.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**
 - a. *Event feedback.* The coach trip, South Downs break and Quiz Night all went off successfully.
 - b. *'Papyrus' Charity Night walk.* Heather reported that 3 members had taken part and unofficially helped with the walk, which was very successful.
 - c. *Extra yellow programmes.* Several had been requested and distributed, and the group will continue to print some extra copies, though not as many as last time.
 - d. *Forgotten Landscapes Project.* Mike had emailed some suggestions to S Glos but had yet to receive a response.
 - e. *Volunteer Celebration S Glos event.* Ken reported that he had attended this along with about 150 others, and found the networking and workshops useful.
 - f. *Weekend away.* Initially suggested for April, but October trip to Exmoor being arranged.
5. **Matters arising from AGM**
 - a. *Group holiday abroad.* No immediate interest.
 - b. *Exmouth coach trip.* In hand. 22 June, with advance info on next programme.
 - c. *Ten pin bowling.* Gill suggested we play Pyramid Bowling, at Hollywood Bowl at Cribbs.
 - d. *Geocaching.* Helen Windsor leading geocache walk on 8 March.
 - e. *Hall booking for AGM.* Jubilee Centre at Bradley Stoke marginally more expensive than Alveston and with fewer kitchen facilities (mugs and boiler), but location central. Peter to book it.

Action: Peter

6. Policy on volunteer expenses

The following to be added to the Group Policy document: 'Severnside group will reimburse any walk leader who wishes to claim for expenses incurred in carrying out pre-walk recces. The claim should be reasonable and be for walks in the Severnside programme. It does not cover walks organised for other groups or for the Wessex Wanderer Railway Walks. Recce expenses for coach trips and holidays, if requested, must be factored into the price of the event.'

Action: Chris

7. Officers reports:

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

Social Secretary's report. (Gill King)

- Christmas Lunch. 34 members turned up for the Christmas walk at Tortworth in December which I believe is the maximum number for a Christmas walk. The weather stayed dry for us as we walked 4.5 miles around Tortworth and Damery before retiring to the Farmers Table for our Christmas lunch. I must say this was one of the best Christmas meals I have had and many people have asked for it to be booked there again next year. The staff did a wonderful job in catering for such a large group and yes, I will book it again for next year. So watch this space.
- Quiz Night at Filton Golf Club enjoyed by all.
- Skittle alley at Almondsbury Social Club considered unsuitable for our events. However, King Billy at Hallen also offers reasonable hot suppers, which deserves investigation for the autumn programme.
Action: Gill
- Weekend away in Simonsbath already booked for 10-12 October. Interest being shown.

Chairman's report. (Heather Rickards)

Amongst the programme of fine walks enjoyed this Autumn, the Severnside ramblers also had a coach trip to Exmoor, a quiz evening, a weekend in the South Downs and a Group Christmas dinner. All these activities were well supported and much appreciated. Thanks to everyone who helped to arrange them.

The AGM in November was also well attended. Peter's idea to add wine to the lunch was a popular move! I would like to thank everyone who agreed to stay on the committee, and to give a special welcome to Ann and to Jean who have joined us this year.

At our next meeting we will look at matters raised at the AGM. This includes the daunting prospect of social media!

Otherwise the slate is fairly clear and members of the committee are welcome to suggest any improvement, alteration or addition they think appropriate for the running of our popular and successful Group.

Secretary's report. (Chris Everitt)

Membership numbers have remained fairly static in the last few months, currently standing at 149. We have had no serious injuries, though Allan reported a problem of a dangerously wobbly stile after Jean hurt her shins while negotiating it.

Treasurer's report. (Peter Randall)

Group Account - £824.88 (includes £31.99 petty cash) as at 31 December 2013

- The next transfer of funds from Group is due in January but I have no way of knowing what funds have been allocated to Severnside for 2014 until this first payment is made. Last year we received £579.65 + £150.00 advertising fees against expenses of only £555.02
- I believe we have sufficient funds to cover expenses for 2014 and as such we could inform the Area Treasurer to reduce our funding to a basic allocation

'Thank you for your e-mail regarding the broken stile, I'm sorry to hear about the fall, I hope the person is now on the mend. I have added the damaged stile to our system for repair under issue 11147 and passed it onto our field officer to carry out an inspection/repair.

As regards taking action against the landowner, the person is within their rights to undertake this, however, I would advise contacting a solicitor for further advice in this, as it is not in my area of expertise. For your information there are no issues regarding the stiles condition currently reported other than this e-mail. I hope this is of help, if you have any further queries please don't hesitate to contact me.'

I have not been able to find the "Issue 11147" on the council website so don't know what action has been taken.

Publicity Officer's report. (Sue Driver)

- Unable to give details for February walks to papers as unknown at date required. Heather confirmed that the first month of a new programme is always a problem as walk leaders don't always offer walks to fill the programme in sequence, and Joy confirmed that 9 Feb had remained unfilled until this week.
- Review of Bradley Stoke festival concluded that nothing had resulted from our involvement as those attending tended to be young families with no interest in rambling. Might have raised profile of group but probably not worth repeating.
- Publicity Officer training day being offered by Ramblers that Sue is hoping to attend.
- Andy and Chris had slot on Bradley Stoke local radio talking about Severnside. Very limited audience, so unlikely to have any effect.

Web editor's report. (Ken Mill)

Website:

- Website updated to repair a number of broken links.
- New page added to include news feed from the Ramblers website. The new page updates automatically with news items published by Ramblers HQ. See <http://www.severnside-ramblers.org.uk/ramblersrssfeed.html>
- Photos added and grateful to all our contributors for providing a record of our walks.
- Layout of some of the pages updated.

South Gloucestershire Council:

Ken reported on a meeting with the Rights of Way Officer Nicola Chidley on 7 Jan 13. which he attended along with Ron Phelps. S Glos are requesting help in checking the state of local footpaths so that they can prioritise repairs. Ken has carried out a lot of work walking and reporting on the paths in Pilning and Severn Beach, and will now tackle the Winterbourne area. He is populating a spreadsheet to show the state of each path and stile, showing where problems exist and where work is required. Cuts to budgets within S Glos have meant that some footpath initiatives have been cut, and our liaison with S Glos raises our own profile and

helps their aims.

The next liaison meeting is at Frampton Cotterell on 5 February. Ken intends to attend.

Social Media:

There is now a Facebook page for Severnside, which Ken retains the editing rights to. The site includes an automatic feed of material from the main Ramblers site. The page can be accessed from the main website.

8. Suggestions for future events, procedures etc

- Skittles evening including hot supper. Action: Gill
- Ten pin bowling Action: Gill
- Quiz evening at Filton Golf Club - last year's winners to be approached to set questions. Action: Chris

9. Any other business

- Heather suggested that our committee minutes are put onto the website so that they are available for all to see. This was unanimously agreed.
- Car parking issues were raised.
- Heather and Ann hope to attend the next Avon Area meeting on 23 January, which will discuss the future direction of Avon Area.

10. Date of next meeting

8 May 2014 7.30pm at Peter's home.

Meeting closed at 9.15pm.