

## SEVERNSIDE RAMBLERS GROUP

### Minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2012 at The Jubilee Hall, Alveston

**Present:** Jean Aellen (Chairman to Min 8.12), Jenny Aspinall, Sue Bowerman, Allan Davies (Footpath Officer), Chris Everett (Secretary from Min 9.12), Chris Gaymer, Joy Harrison (Walks Co-ordinator), Pauline Hart (Treasurer to Min 8.12), Gill King (Social Secretary), John Lewis, Ann Light, Ken Mill (Web Master), Janet Milne, Carolyn Muston, Robert Muston, Mike Norman, Andy Pearson, Sylvia Popham, Peter Randall (Treasurer from Min 9.12), Heather Rickards (Publicity Officer to Min 8.12 / Chairman from Min 9.12), Irene Skeates, Pauline Smith, Jean Williams

Copies of the Agenda, Minutes of 2011 AGM, Officers' Reports, Accounts and other papers were circulated to those present.

**1.12 Introduction** Retiring chairman Jean Aellen welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Andy Pearson and Chris Everett for leading the walk prior to the meeting. Thanks were expressed to Heather Rickards and Pauline Hart for setting up the hall and arranging lunch. Thanks were also expressed to Roy Marshall for his pre meeting talk on safety and health awareness whilst out walking, which was both informative and interesting

**2.12 Apologies for absence** were received from Lina Hossain, Narinjan Singh, Chris Roberts, Don Ford, Joyce Powell, Helen Briggs, Jo Wall, Moira Trenchard, Lesley Rossiter and Kathy Strawbridge.

**3.12 Minutes of previous meeting** held on 20 November 2011 were accepted as a true and accurate record. Janet Milne proposed and Chris Gaymer seconded that the minutes be accepted.

#### **4.12 Matters arising from the Minutes of the 2011 AGM**

**5.11 (vi) Amendment to walks preview calendar on website** - boxes for Short / Long walks. This had not been actioned as it had looked messy. Ken would work on it in the New Year. **ACTION: Ken Mill**

**6.11(iii) Navigation Event** It was agreed that an annual navigation event would be held in October with a follow-up event in February

**10.11 Appointment of Area Representative** Joy had attended one meeting at Bradley Stoke; Jean had attended others as she had been at the Area Council in the capacity of Area Membership Secretary.

**12.11(i) Sweaters/Fleeces** had been discussed by the Committee but due mainly to cost it had been agreed not to proceed. However scarves had been issued to all walkers that participated in the Jubilee Walks on 8 July, and all three of the shorter walks.

**12.11(ii) Need to carry First Aid Kits:** Ramblers recommended that all walk leaders and walkers carry first aid kits. First aid training for members had been discussed but deemed to be too costly. The Committee had considered all Walk Leaders knew what was required of them, and the Walk Leaders Checklist gave first aid advice. It had not been practical to call a meeting of Walk Leaders. The presentation by Roy Marshall prior to this AGM had been a result of the Committee's discussions.

#### **5.12 Officers' Reports**

**(i) Chairman:** report as circulated. Jean thanked the Committee and Walk Leaders for all their hard work during the year to maintain a varied and vibrant programme of walks and social activities. Thanks were also expressed to the new members of the Committee (Sue, Mike, and Peter) for their interest and input. Sue had resigned early to help her daughter and take on the new role of "grandmother of twins". Special thanks to Ann and Ken for their fortitude in leading the main walk on 8 July, with additional thanks to Allan & Charlie for their brave sun bathing efforts as well as driving the mini buses.

Overall it had been a very enjoyable year in the chair but after 5 years on the Committee Jean had decided it was time to stand down and allow new blood and ideas to come on board.

(ii) **Secretary/Membership Secretary:** report as circulated. During the period membership had fluctuated between 166 and 173 but at the end of September stood at 163. This reflected similar movement in numbers in the Area and Ramblers as a whole. Of the 163 members 99 received electronic mailing. To help reduce postage costs members were asked to transfer to electronic mail.

Since Sue had stepped down the post of Secretary was vacant.

(iii) **Treasurer:** Accounts as circulated. Pauline took the meeting through the audited accounts referring to the additional cost of postage with a further plea for members to adopt email communication. Small profits had been made from various social events. These did not go to Group Account but to the Social Account and had financed the scarves, and cava to wash down Heather's birthday cake following the Jubilee Way Walk. Revenue received from Central Office and advertising from Ramblers Holidays had financed the various advertising and printing costs of the Group. In response to a question it was confirmed that our Social Account funds were still too small to attract attention from Area.

Pauline said she had only taken over the Treasurer role temporarily two years previously and she would not be standing for re-election.

(iv) **Footpaths Officer:** report as circulated. The Area Path Warden's scheme was going well in other Groups but there was no permanent Warden for South Gloucestershire. Various problems had been reported to South Glos Council and it had been pleasing to note that the obstructed footpath adjacent to the Tesco depot at Redwick had been resolved. Allan urged all members to be aware of the new CROW Act that would come into force on 31 December 2025 and to report any footpaths that were not on "definitive maps" by that date. These maps were held by individual Local Authorities and could be accessed through their websites. Allan confirmed he was happy to stand for re-election.

(v) **Publicity Officer:** report as circulated. Heather reported that it was pleasing to note that South Glos Council seemed to be embracing Ramblers as part of its Discovery Festival where three of our walks had been included in its programme. A photograph of Severnside Ramblers had been in the publicity. Pilning had celebrated the Queen's Jubilee with a Teddy Village display which included a tableau of small bears dressed in walking gear. The walks programme continued to be advertised in various newspapers, journals and libraries and had recently appeared in Bradley Stoke Journal, which was an electronic daily journal of activities in Bradley Stoke. Heather felt it was time for new ideas and would not be standing for re-election.

(vi) **Walks Programme Coordinator:** report as circulated. Joy expressed her appreciation to the Walk Leaders for submitting walks for inclusion in the programme. There were still problems getting together a 4 month programme. Rather than cajole existing leaders to put on more walks it would be better if new leaders were to come forward. Gaps could be filled by liaising with other Groups to use their walks or by adding Wessex Wanderers walks. It was agreed that Joy would send an email to acknowledge receipt of a walk because there was sometimes a short delay before the walk was entered to the website. **ACTION: Joy Harrison**

Joy asked Walk Leaders to add the nearest Town to proposed walks to assist her adding them onto the "Walk Finder" website. (See (vii) below)

Walks for the February to May programme need to be submitted by the end of December.

Joy closed by saying she would be happy to stand for re-election.

(vii) **Web Editor:** report as circulated. Ken thanked Andy for the many photos he regularly submitted for the website, which was run by 123 and had proved to be a very reliable service. Ramblers was soon to issue a new website which would necessitate a considerable amount of tidying up and reconnection of broken links and Ken was looking forward to doing the work in the New Year. It was generally agreed that we had a very good website which was easy to use by members and prospective members alike. In response to Joy's earlier request for Town details Ken agreed to add a "Town" box on the 'submit a walk' form.

**ACTION: Ken Mill**

Ken confirmed he was willing to stand for re-election.

**(viii) Social Secretary:** report as circulated. It had been disappointing that the quiz organised for October 2011 had been cancelled due to poor response. It was thought this was probably because it was advertised in the programme issued for October 2011 and so there had not been sufficient notice. A new quiz would be included in the next programme. In this respect Andy confirmed he still had all the relevant information to proceed. The weekends in Llangollen and Derbyshire had been very well attended and appreciated by members despite the horrid weather conditions in Llangollen.

The Christmas meal to be held on 16 December 2012 still had places available. It was agreed that a reminder be emailed to members.

A weekend in Elan Valley had been arranged for April 2013 with 18 of the 28 spaces already taken up.

Gill confirmed she was willing to stand for re-election.

**6.12 Review of Contribution towards Fuel Costs:** paper as circulated. This matter had been discussed by Committee because there had been a view that sometimes the contribution received by a driver was excessive if the car was full. The Committee had discussed a maximum level of contribution so that Walk Leaders could plan at the 'edge' of the geographical range for our walks. A proposal was put to the meeting that mileage costs continue to be estimated at 10p/mile with a maximum contribution of £10 plus a share of toll and parking costs where journeys were in excess of 100 miles. Chris Gaymer stated she considered the proposal was reasonable. Andy suggested that passengers be 'spread' among those willing to drive. It was agreed that a good range of distances for travel to the start of a walk was needed, and that where the maximum charge applied it would be made clear on the programme.

It was confirmed that the arrangement did not apply to holidays where any contribution was agreed between the driver and passengers.

The meeting voted by a show of hands and was unanimous in accepting the proposal. The new arrangement would be effective from the next programme (1 February 2013).

The meeting was reminded that these costs were indicative and voluntary and by no means mandatory.

#### **7.12 Possible Events for 2013**

**(i) Coach Trip:** following the success of the outing to Weymouth, Mike Norman suggested further possibilities for a trip to St David's / Lynton & Lynmouth / Black Mountains / Lyndhurst & New Forest / Hay on Wye. After discussion Mike was asked to investigate a trip to Lynton & Lynmouth for discussion at the next Committee meeting in January.

**ACTION: Mike Norman**

**(ii) Go Ape or Canoeing down the Wye** were suggested by John Lewis and John was asked to investigate.

**ACTION: John Lewis**

**(iii) Skittles and Quiz** would be put on the programme in 2013.

**ACTION: Gill King / Andy Pearson**

**(iv) Map Reading** course and follow up would be scheduled for October / February as previously discussed.

**ACTION: Janet Milne**

**(v) Photography evening:** Andy Pearson suggested he could run a brief photography event to help improve camera skills. He was also considering an 'al fresco' session for a limited number of people.

**ACTION: Andy Pearson**

**(vi) Group Holiday Abroad:** Mike Norman asked if the Group may be interested in taking a holiday abroad eg with Ramblers Holidays or HF. Reference was made to a trip to Turkey that Jill Fysh had organised a number of years ago but which had been cancelled because the airline went into administration. This would be brought to the January Committee meeting for further consideration

**ACTION: Committee Members**

#### **8.12 Retirement of current Committee Members**

The Committee retired. Previously a non-Committee member had taken the chair for the election of the new Committee. This was considered a cumbersome procedure and Jean had sought advice from Ramblers Central Office. In the absence of a response Jean had decided it was appropriate for the retiring Chairman to remain in the chair for the elections.

## 9.12 Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members

The following appointments were made

Position	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Heather Rickards	Ann Light	Sue Bowerman
Group Treasurer	Peter Randall	Pauline Hart	Jean Williams
Group Secretary / Membership Secretary	Chris Everett	Pauline Smith	Chris Gaymer
Group Publicity Officer	Sue Driver*	Heather Rickards	Sue Bowerman
Footpath Secretary	Allan Davies	Mike Norman	Jean Williams
Walks Coordinator	Joy Harrison	Carolyn Muston	Robert Muston
Group Web Editor	Ken Mill	Pauline Hart	Janet Milne
Social Secretary	Gill King	Jean Williams	Pauline Smith
General Committee Member	Mike Norman	Janet Milne	Jean Aellen
General Committee Member	Chris Gaymer	Pauline Hart	Ann Light
General Committee Member	Carolyn Muston	Janet Milne	Gill King
General Committee Member	Robert Muston	Janet Milne	Gill King

\*Heather explained that Sue Driver had hoped to be able to attend but a prior commitment had prevented her from doing so.

Heather Rickards took the chair and thanked all retiring officers for their efforts. A special vote of thanks was given to Jean Aellen for the sterling work she had achieved over the past 5 years and a surprise presentation was made in recognition of her dedication to the Group.

### 10.12 Appointment of a representative to the governing body of the Area

It was explained that the representative attended meetings of the Area Council and represented the Group there, reporting back to the Group Committee on proceedings and how these affected the Group. Jean offered to act as representative until February 2013 when she would be resigning as Area Membership Secretary. Jean suggested that after that date the new Committee sent a representative as and when they could. This was proposed by Pauline Hart and seconded by Peter Randall.

**11.12 Appointment of Independent Examiner or Examiners:** It was agreed that the present arrangement should continue whereby the Group utilised a colleague of Ken Mill's to audit the accounts.

**ACTION: Ken Mill**

### 12.12 Any Other Urgent Business

**(i) Tintern Abbey parking:** Janet Milne reported that on a recent visit to Tintern it was noted that car park charges had been operational. The charges for the Abbey and restaurant car parks could be mitigated against the cost of food and drink in various outlets. This may not be the case for the station car park.

**(ii) Programme:** It looked as though the Group would need to continue with the Area arrangement of 4 monthly programmes. Jean Aellen suggested that where there were gaps in the programme these could be filled by reference to other Groups to put on a 'joint walk'; or Wessex Wanderers walks. Alternatively a gap could be left and hopefully this may encourage new walk leaders!

**13.12 Date of the next AGM** would be Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2013 at The Jubilee Hall, Alveston