

Minutes from Severnside Committee meeting held on 8 May 2014.

Those present:

Allan Davies, Sue Driver, Chris Everett, Chris Gaymer, Joy Harrison, 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.** Gill King.
3. **The minutes from the committee meeting** held on the 9 January 2014 were accepted as a true and accurate record.
4. **Matters arising from previous minutes:**
 - a. *Extra paper copies of programmes.* Agreed to retain numbers as previous run, as although library copies ran out quickly, the value of them in attracting new members and the presentation by libraries was questionable.
 - b. *Community Project.* Awaiting lottery funding, so no activity until at least September.
 - c. *AGM room booking:* Oak room at Bradley Stoke Jubilee Hall booked.
 - d. *Publicity - walk details for first month of new programme.* Details available in time this period.
 - e. *Geocaching.* Ken looking at potential of other walks that include geo-caches.
 - f. *Training days for publicity:* Ramblers offering volunteer training Taunton/Swansea 6th/7th June. Sue probably unable to make either.

5. Avon Area Meeting Feedback

Report from Chris Gaymer:

The first item on the agenda was regarding advertising 'Enjoying the Ramblers' on the Web site. Maureen Johnson had submitted some suggestions for this, but as she was not able to attend this item would be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

An Area sub-committee would be set up to discuss the changes necessary to the Area Constitution to rotate the Chair and Secretary positions. David Waterstone and Carew Reynolds would take part in this, together with current Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Motions for the General Council were discussed.

1	Publicity for 2026 Cut off date	Sussex	More publicity to raise awareness for right to add historic paths to OS maps	Y
2	Guidance on 2026 Cut –off date	S Yorks and N Derbyshire	Areas and Groups have not yet received any guidance on the types of routes they should claim	Y
3	Waymarking	West Riding	To ensure all ROWs are waymarked	Y
4	Guidance notes for footpath workers	N Wales	Guidance Notes for F/Path workers last pub 2004. (Practical was OK, but Legal aspects needed updating)	Y
5	Biodiversity Offsetting	Avon	Concern that loss of green spaces would not be sufficiently offset by developers	Y
6	Barbed Wire	Merseyside & W.Cheshire	Deploring use of barbed wire	Y with amendment N without amendment
7	Access points to access land	Mid Lancs	Concern about continuing low level of usage of access land	Y

Website

Discussion that Central Office want to combine all Ramblers activities on one web-site. This would obviously help groups that do not have a web site, but not sure where it would leave Severnside, who already have a website that it would be difficult to improve on. We would not want to sacrifice our website in exchange for taking part in a second-best National one. Discussion on-going, and no date or, as far as I can see, definite proposal yet.

Meeting notes – Ken is to be a reviewer for the new corporate website so can influence decision.

Chris G can make next meeting (29/7/14).

Chris E to remind committee of meeting date and venue closer to time.

Action: Chris E

6. Inclusion in our programme of external initiatives

a. Keynsham Walkers are Welcome initiative

Keynsham has been accepted for Walkers are Welcome endorsement. A series of leaflets are available and there should be a festival of walks in due course. We could promote this on the website once available, and if in time, conceivably include in our programme. However, led walks in other areas incur a charge.

b. South Glos Walking for Health - the next step

In principle, it was agreed that this was a good idea and should be encouraged. There was discussion as to how integration of the current Walking for Health participants might occur, especially as their current provision is free. It was agreed that we would not make an exception to the '3 walks then join' rule, and that some of our leaders would join in their walks where possible in order to meet potential members.

c. Wessex Wanderers Railway Walks

Ann suggested that we could use a WWW or walk run by another group if we had spaces on our programme that we couldn't fill.

d. Bristol Walking Festival

The current programme was reviewed, and as it largely consists of very short walks, was considered inappropriate for inclusion on our programme. However, Joy and Mike volunteered to keep a watching brief for possible use next year.

7. Joint Local Access Forum.

Ken is considering joining this, in order to represent the interests of Ramblers. Probably 3 meetings per year.

8. Officers' Reports:

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

Social Secretary's report. (Gill King)

None received. Christmas lunch has been booked for 14 Dec 2014 at Tortworth again.

Chairman's report. (Heather Rickards)

'We have experienced another successful season with enjoyable walks, tolerable weather and the additional activities of map-reading, geocaching and an HF break on Dartmoor. Janet's map reading morning was much appreciated, Helen's geocaching may well be repeated, and the Dartmoor stay was a great weekend that was only slightly dampened by rain!

Thanks to everyone who puts in the time and effort to secure these successes.

We have welcomed several newcomers to the Group. They seem to be impressed by the friendly atmosphere of Severnside Ramblers. This is very heartening. It is very important that we are welcoming - for the sake of the newcomers and for our group. Chris can tell us how many have recently signed up to join us.

There have been several openings to extend our interest beyond our own group:

- Bristol Walking Festival 2015
- Keynsham's Walkers are Welcome
- Wessex Wanderers Railway Walks
- South Gloucestershire's Walking for Health Stepping Stones (the next stage)

I would like to discuss at the meeting if and how we should embrace these initiatives.'

Secretary's report. (Chris Everett)

'Membership currently stands at 151. After a downturn and a lull last year, numbers picked up a little again in the New Year, once we had some better weather. We have had a total of 9 added to the list: 5 new members joining us (Claire Cox, John Turner, Louise Davis, Paul Lees and Janet Wilding), Zoltan Nagy has transferred back to us following his move, and 3 people who had lapsed have been reinstated. With the start of the Friday Amble season, some evening walks in the schedule and the potential to liaise with SGC's Walking for Health, we would hope to attract more members still.

The good news has been partly offset by those who have left: 7 in the period: Jan Groves has resigned her membership, Michael Lewis, Andrew Naftel, Marilyn Saxton, Jenny Dalby and Mrs Jolly have lapsed their membership and, most sadly, Peter Robinson died. Heather, Jean and myself attended his funeral last month, and we have sent condolences to Ros. I have heard from a couple of current members warning that they are likely to leave shortly due to home move/work commitments, but overall the numbers are steady and perhaps slowly gaining again.

Ramblers have increased their prices with effect from 1 May 2014. Extra leaflets containing these rates have been ordered for New Walker packs.'

Treasurer's report. (Peter Randall)

Group Account - £803.34 (includes £31.99 petty cash) as at 30th April 2014

- We started the year with £728.90. Contributions from Group, Advertising (WWH), Holiday credits and contributions from the map reading course we have slightly increased the balance.
- Contributions from Group have reduced from £155 to £131

Social Fund Account - £746.43 (includes £9.44 petty cash) as at 30th April 2014

• The year started with a bank balance of		231.44
• Petty cash in hand		9.44
• Event Surplus's –		
	Quiz Evening	82.59
	Xmas Lunch	35.70
	Haytor	<u>24.56</u>
		142.85
• Exmouth Coach Trip	Payments	392.00
	Less Coach Hire	<u>0.00</u>
		392.00
• Exmoor Weekend Deposits		575.00
	Less Hotel Deposit	<u>575.00</u>
		<u>0.00</u>
		£775.73
• Less Various Petty Cash Expenditure		<u>29.30</u>
	Balance	<u>£746.43</u>

After several frustrating telephone calls and a letter of complaint to Unity Trust Bank I have finally got both accounts accepted for internet banking and access to view for other signatories.

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

One Sunday, 14th September, still empty. Will see if we can join another local group's walk then if nothing forthcoming from members. (*Post-meeting note – date now filled*).

Footpath Officer's report. (Allan Davies)

Nothing to report.

Publicity Officer's report. (Sue Driver)

- 'Promotional leaflets and posters received from Ramblers. Will bring to Thursday's committee meeting.
- The local WI contacted to say that if we were walking in the area we would be welcome to stop for a cream tea. I am waiting for further dates to be confirmed.
29 Jun Sun Cream Teas at Meadowside, Oldbury Naite, 2-5pm
18 May Cream Teas at Tortworth. 2- 4.30pm
- Ideas for posters would be appreciated. I considered making up some templates advertising the variety of walks Severnside offer.'

Meeting note – Peter suggested leaflets in Town Halls.

Web editor's report. (Ken Mill)

Website:

- Website updated to repair a number of broken links.
- Photos added and grateful to all our contributors for providing a record of our walks.
- Committee meeting minutes added to website.

Facebook:

- Severnside Facebook page being maintained with links to photos from our walks.
- Links to articles published by Ordnance Survey, Country Walking and Trail Magazines, National Trust, Woodland Trust etc.

9. Any suggestions from the committee concerning future events, procedures etc.

- a. Jean suggested that as weather had prevented us from walking the proposed Shaldon route on the last Monday of the Dartmoor break, we might consider a day out by coach to do it next year.
- b. A further list of half-price breaks had been received from HF, and it was proposed that we find whether there might be sufficient numbers for the Brecon 3-day break in August/September. (need 15 min).
Action: Chris E
- c. The proposal to take up the offer of a member to use his classic coach on a walk was rejected.
- d. Jan and Mike are offering a further map reading / navigation course on Sat 4/10/14. Members only, £5 to funds, Siston area.

10. Any other business

- a. **Speaker for AGM.** Peter to approach Air Ambulance.
Action: Peter
- b. **Closing date for submission for next programme** to be 3/9/14.
- c. **Car parking:** Peter to investigate possible alternative sites in locality.
Action: Peter
- d. **QR codes:** Allan suggested we investigate the use of QR codes ('barcode' that links to website using smartphone).

11. Date and venue of next meeting

Peter's home. *Post-meeting* Date re-arranged for Mon 1 September 2014, to avoid clash with Brecon break. 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.50pm.