

Minutes of Severnside Ramblers AGM held at Little Stoke Scout Hut on 26th November 2023 at 13.15pm

Attendees

Chris Bracey	Chairman
Christine Pankhurst	Membership Secretary
Chris Turner	Treasurer
Ken Mill	Web Editor/Programme Editor/Footpaths
Sue Lancaster	Programme Secretary/Walk Co-ordinator
Andy Pearson	Publicity
Jean Williams	Committee
Emma Smith	Committee
Sylvia Popham	Committee
Angela Bruton-Gibney	Peter Randall
Pauline Hart	George Whyte
Terri Arman	Louise Mill
Peter Spring	Sue Bowerman
Joy Harrison	Carolyn Muston
Kim Carey	Gill Rodger
Chris Everett	Sue Budge
Bob Smyth	Brenda Smyth
Steve Goodenough	Joyce Powell
Linda Sheppard	Jody Seward
Jill Parkinson	Heather Rickards
Jean Aellen	Nick Rostern
Maggy Spikings	Jackie Cadwgan
Cathy Hunsley	Colin Hunsley
Kathy Strawbridge	Les Davison

1 Welcome-Chris Bracey welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for coming. He then went on to apologise for the late change of venue and for any inconvenience this may have caused. The circumstances were completely out of our control due to a double booking error at Tytherington Hall which they only brought to our attention 10days before the meeting. Chris thanked both Bob Smyth and Heather Rickards in their efforts to secure a suitable venue for us keeping the original date of our AGM. Chris then went on to announce his decision to resign as Chair at this meeting and also his reasons for relinquishing his Ramblers Membership in the coming year.

2 Apologies for absence were received from- Gill King(Social Secretary),Dan Miller, David & Caroline Jefferies, Andy George, Martyn Brown, Claire Cox, Jenny Aspinall, John Lewis and Lynn Casey. Chris P then welcomed Christine Roberts to the meeting as a guest. Christine was a member of Severnside for a number of years before moving to Taunton and was visiting Jean Aellen for the weekend.

3 Minutes of AGM 2022- Copies of the Minutes had been circulated to the Members and were accepted as a true record.

4 Matters arising- There were no matters arising.

5 Officers' Reports-These were also available at the meeting and read out as follows:

a) Chairman- Report attached

b) Membership Secretary – Report attached

Chris B mentioned that he knew of two people, John & Monica, who were members of Kingswood Group and had been on several of his walks that were thinking of transferring to Severnside.

c) Walks Programme Coordinator- Report attached

Sue also highlighted the point that 14 of the walks that had been put on this year had been led by Chris Bracey. With his forthcoming departure from the Group this could leave a large hole in the programme if more leaders didn't come forward.

d) Footpath Secretary- Although not officially in this role, Ken has been keeping an eye on things and submitted the attached report.

e)Publicity- Andy reported that little work was needed on publicity as we were clearly having no trouble in attracting new members. As most people are now online ,Facebook has become a very useful tool for showing photos of our walks and makes very good advertising. Andy will therefore be taking over control of administering our Facebook account following Ken's resignation. Linda Sheppard said that it was the published photos that encouraged her to join Severnside. During the meeting Andy ran a slide show of all the pictures he had taken over the years since 1999 of walks that Chris B and Ken had both been on.

f)Website- Report attached. Ken also mentioned a useful new link in helping to plan new walks. Photos can be added to the website showing evidence which footpaths are still being used. Mark Hill has agreed to take on Website Editor role following Ken's resignation but he will continue to offer back up and support when needed. Also he will continue to support Sue as Walks Manager Editor. Jean Aellen asked if any training could be given for Walks Manager as she had got into difficulty when trying to use it. The problem seems to be with getting differing results for WHAT3WORDS as the 3metre grid is more specific than a postcode. Ken agreed that he would try and arrange something with Andy and his slides.

g)Social Secretary- In her absence Chris T read the following report from Gill;- "The Christmas meal was a success with maximum numbers held at the Anchor Inn Oldbury on Severn with a walk led

beforehand by Andy & Chris. The annual pub quiz was once again held at Filton Golf Club with a supper. A trip to HF Sedbergh was organised in March with walks led by Janet Milne and Mike Norman. Sadly the weather was not on our side and it was very muddy in places. Jean Williams organised her annual coach trip to Sidmouth with a full coach and two walks which were led by Chris Bracey and Jean herself. Next year we hope to host a Beetle Drive during Feb/Mar instead of the quiz. Also next year we have a trip organised for Oct HF Malhamdale. If anyone would like to go please contact Gill and she will see what places are left.

h)Avon Area- Chris B said that he had only attended one meeting during this year which wasn't very successful owing to IT problems during the Zoom meeting. Also he felt that the Chair was very rude to Sylvia Popham when she was trying to get her points across. In the past Joy Harrison has been our representative for Avon Area but Sylvia Popham has agreed to take on this role from her.

6 Accounts-Please see attached report and balance sheet. Peter Randall asked with the amount we had in the balance were we in danger of losing our funding? Chris T said that she thought not providing that our expenses remained the same. Chris B mentioned that we were no longer allowed to advertise Ramblers Holidays on our Programme as we were in breach of Data Protection Rules. If anyone takes one of their holidays they need to mention Severnside at the time of booking for us to receive a bonus. Chris T also confirmed that we also have a very small HF account on which we get interest.

7 Avon Area Representative-Joy had nothing to report as she has stepped down from this role.

8 Xmas Meal-This is to be held on Sunday 10th December at the Millers Arms , Mathern. Please contact Gill with your menu choices. Places are still available.

9 Outing for 2024- Jean will be organising a coach trip to Lynmouth in July. Walks to be led by Jean and Chris T.

10 Events for 2024- This had mainly been covered in Gill's report earlier. Unfortunately attempts to arrange a Skittles Evening had not been successful owing to the lack of success in finding a suitable alley. Pauline Hart asked for a Bridge Night.

11 Avon Area AGM-This will be held on Saturday 24th February 2024 at Somerdale Pavilion , Keynsham. Sylvia will attend. As yet no guest speaker has been announced. Chris P will circulate details to members nearer the time.

12 Retirement of Committee-Chris B announced that he was resigning as Chair as after being a member for many years he had taken the decision to leave Ramblers. Also Ken had previously announced that he would be stepping down from all his roles for the coming year. A presentation was made of gifts and cards to both Chris & Ken with heartfelt thanks for all their contributions over the years and best wishes for their futures.

13 Election of Committee members for 2023/2024-

Post	Name	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Christine Turner	Heather Rickards	Jill Parkinson
Secretary/Membership	Christine Pankhurst	Peter Randall	Jean Williams
Treasurer	Bob Smyth	Peter Randall	Jean Aellen
Walk Co-ordinator	Sue Lancaster	Peter Spring	Peter Randall
Social Secretary	Gill King	Christine Turner	Sue Bowerman
Footpath	Cathy Hunsley	Peter Spring	Ken Mill
Web Editor	Mark Hill	Ken Mill	Chris Bracey
Publicity	Andy Pearson	Christine Pankhurst	Ken Mill
Committee Members	Sylvia Popham – (Avon area rep) Jean Williams Emma Smith	Chris Bracey	Ken Mill

14 Appointment of Auditor-Nick Rostern offered take this role for us.

15 Any Other Business-Joy Harrison said that although she had stepped down from her Avon Area responsibilities she still acted as a co-ordinator for Wessex Wanderer Railway Walks. They had been badly hit this year with the rail strikes and changes to the train timetables but despite this they had managed to put on a number of walks. They have begun planning the programme for next year as the walks remain popular. Walks can be on any day of the week although usually they are on a Wednesday or Saturday. Joy wanted to thank Ken for his work in revamping the WWR website for them which is already attracting new members. Sylvia let everyone know that if anyone was interested in leading a walk for them that she was able to get GWR train passes for them. Bob then asked if we could arrange summer evening walks as he had enjoyed several which were offered by Kingswood Group. Andy said that pre-Covid he had led a series of evening walks but sadly they were not very well attended. However, if anyone wanted to try this again it was worth adding to the programme. Chris P then asked the members for their views on the Pdf programme that was emailed to them every 3 months. How much did they refer to the information it contained or did they prefer to go to our website instead? Bearing in mind that we still have 9 members who do not have email access how would we keep these members informed if it was no longer produced? A discussion ensued but without resolution.

16 Date and Venue of next AGM-This was set for Sunday 24th November 2024 with the venue TBA .

