

# South Gwent Ramblers

## Minutes of the committee meeting held on 20 April 2000

Members present - Ken Phillips (KP), Brian Williams (BW), Ray Cantwell (RC), Adrian Sheehan (AS), Fred Fee (FF), Kath Sadler (KS), Andrew Wilmott (AM).

The meeting was called in a letter from KP and an accompanying statement of account (attached).

### *Matters arising from the meeting of 20 March 2000*

The London trip (24 June) is now to start at the Civic Centre not the Holiday Inn because of recently introduced parking charges at the Holiday Inn.

The Gower trip to Rhossili is still on.

Footpaths survey payments were £200 in the last two years.

**AS will organise the Area AGM at Cwmcarn.**

The RA are advertising for a Chief executive.

BW reports that a cancellation means that we could have a date for a display in the library on 2 May. They can lend us a stand with three 6'6" x 2'6" sections. FF showed a poster for advertising the group as an example of what could be displayed, but thought that we needed more notice to prepare a good display. **BW will try to book the display boards for about this time in 2001.** KS suggested having a colouring competition - we provide the poster to be coloured in.

### *Other matters arising generally relating to the future direction of the group*

[Briefly, John Ridley has written asking for the accounts to be split into two funds, one specifically for footpaths. After much discussion, AS has, at the committee's behest, formulated a response for KP to sign. John Ridley has meanwhile written again asking for a response. this process set off a train of events culminating in part in this meeting.]

RC indicated that Matthew Hamer was more than willing to help members go about reporting path problems and clearing paths. **We should ask everyone at long and short walks if they are interested in an effort to find 10 or so volunteers confident to help in some way however small.**

KC would like more certainty about the way social spending is arranged, for example having a formula for working out the amount by which a coach ramble could be underwritten. This could involve underwriting 20% of seats providing an effort was made to fill all of them. He also thought we may consider having a social secretary.

AS would like a longer term outline of events to make underwriting them easier to assess as demand matures with time.

KC suggested a group project on footpaths. we should publish a booklet of six long and six

short walks all of which have to be wholly within our area. We can then develop from there. A leader could write up a particular walk of their own and pass it to others to follow and check. The leader could then identify with the walk and try to keep an eye on it for footpath problems.

FF saw the Group as essentially being split in two - the long walkers and the short walkers. He would like to see the Group move towards being one entity, for example by consultation between leaders of long and short walks before they are finalised. That way, at least on some long and short walks could meet at one destination after walking, maybe for a pint. Also long and short walkers should mingle more at the Civic centre before walks.

AS said that nothing we do will stop John Ridley having his own agenda. We should put projects to John Ridley and for interested Group members to further. Suggestions for social and footpaths funds have been fully discussed and the Group has agreed to have only one account. [FF asked if short walkers were interested in footpaths: the consensus was that they were not].

KC noted that 75% of our subscriptions goes to the RA.

AS suggested that we could pay members of other Groups to do our footpaths work if they wished to do it.

BW said that the letter sent to John Ridley reflected committee sentiment as agreed at several meetings.

KS said that members had left the committee because of John Ridley's agenda and she agreed strongly with the sentiment of the letter.

KC would like more short walkers on the committee. KS indicated that they were not very interested from her experience.

RC said that we represent the membership. There is a pot of money of historical origin albeit that much of it was generated by John Ridley and George West working hard on footpaths without asking for much recompense. This work was notable but should not affect future finances. The committee should decide the issues sensible as representatives of the members.

As liked the generality of the letter and said that it would be a mistake to try to answer John Ridley point by point.

At the end of the meeting, there seemed to be agreement that we should try to do more to get some footpath work on the go (as several suggestions above bear out), that this does not conflict with social events which should continue and that the Group should try to become one group again.

Finally KP agreed to remain as Chairman. He would remain as Secretary but would like a replacement to come forward.



