

South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the committee meeting held on

26 September 2000

Members present - Ken Phillips (KP), Brian Williams (BW), Fred Fee (FF), Val Clark (VC), Kath Sadler (KS), Keith Cooper (KC), Andrew Wilmott (AW).

Apologies for absence None

Minutes of last meeting The following amendments to be made:

Para 5.a.i delete “could arrange”, insert “may consider arranging”.

Para 5.a.ii delete “has volunteered”, insert “will be approached to organise”.

Para 5.a.iii delete “will investigate and answer to the RA”, insert “will pass to Adrian”.

Para 5.d.i Scrap the paragraph

Para 8 delete “with Brenda”.

The minutes were adopted as amended.

Matters arising from the minutes

Para 5.a.v KC emailed list.

Para 5.b.ii Address has been given.

Para 5.d.ii We will continue to keep an eye on the problem.

Para 5.d.iii In fact, Arthur is to see a specialist about both his knees with a view to operations - **KP to send a letter of support .**

Para 5.d.iv KC and Adrian have written a piece for the newsletter. **KC to sent it to KP .**

Para 6.b KP sent a letter to Kieron O'Hagen and Bronwen Williams. **Adrian is to arrange the walk but not necessarily lead it .**

Para 7 *KC accompanied Adrian.* The contingency fund money held by Area turned out to be part of a CCW grant made to Area for footpath surveys and a vote agreed that the money should go to the countryside fund. KC and Adrian abstained after hearing the arguments for and against distributing the money to the Groups. KC is happy to be a delegate to Area. The committee asked KC to support retaining the Area as an administrative unit of the RA.

Para 8 KP did write.

Officers' reports

Secretary KP presented the correspondence, allotting papers to appropriate officers as necessary. List of correspondence attached.

Treasurer BW presented provisional accounts for the year (account

sheet attached). The loss comes mainly from donations. Final bank statements and Footpath Survey money (about £20) from Area were awaited. With the Area treasurer on holiday it was unlikely that the latter would arrive in time. (KP noted that Adrian had submitted a bill for walks programme expenses to the end of August. He indicated that he had the six-page consolidated area accounts in hand.) The meeting discussed upping the proposed donation to the Ruperra appeal. KC noted that the Ruperra site was within our patch, made for good walking and needed our help. He noted that a certain level of subscription would provide a newsletter from the "Friends of Ruperra". **BW suggested leaving the donation at £20 and let the incoming committee discuss any further donation after the AGM.** KP noted a trend for increasing calls for donations and suggested having a donations budget for the year. **Again, this matter was deferred.** BW thought that the area had £500 from our group, leaving it with a healthy surplus in hand. The last time the Area had a surplus £100 was given to each Group. The Area should be asked what it is doing with the money and whether the Groups should receive it. KC noted that Charity Commission did not like to see money lying idle and usually pressed for it to be used. KP noted that the Area treasurer's report (31 July 2000) showed no such money in hand.

Footpaths Officer KP in the absence of Ray Cantwell noted:

that Tredegar golf course had been sold and the land left fallow pending permission to build 170 houses, then 800 more if the 170 are allowed. The head of planning services asked for observations on footpaths. **Ray to comment.**

Lower Wye had been invited to come to the Gower walk and some had asked about it after it had been cancelled. Lower Wye now wanted information on any further coach rambles. **KC will contact Lower Wye about future cooperation.**

KC said that a Web site listing chronologically all Gwent Groups' walks was proposed.

Following the Matthew Hamer's visit to the last meeting, Fred, Keith, Brian, Adrian and Ray accompanied Matthew on a walk along one of the paths featured in a Newport walks leaflet. Matthew indicated what he expected us to report and the extent of the work that the Council was prepared to undertake in keeping the paths operational. We noted that

those who went on the walk would pass on the information gleaned from Matthew.

Matthew will ask for volunteers.

The five committee members who went on the walk would accompany any further volunteers to pass on the information about what to report at first hand- as soon as Ray gets maps from Matthew.

Rambles Officer KP in the absence of Adrian Sheehan noted:

A very diplomatic letter was sent to South Shropshire Group to try to restore good relations with the Group.

Christmas dinner is proposed for Friday 1 December at Newport Golf Club. **KS will contact the club and report back.**

Christmas walk proposed for Thursday 28 December followed by a meal at the Huntsman. **KP will ask Jill about organisation.**

BW will organise a trip to Flatholme in Spring . KP gave BW a leaflet.

There is a sponsored walk along the MacMillan way from Stow to Bradford-upon-Avon. **KP will contact Adrian about getting information. KP may organise a trip.**

Membership Secretary VC noted that Ray Wensley's computer is now "well" after a period of sickness and the printout of 5 August 2000 showed our July membership at 163, a reduction of 4 on June's figure. However, this was not dissimilar to the majority of Groups in the Greater Gwent Area. Membership for Wales reached the target of 6000 set by the Welsh Office earlier in the year. BW noted that all Groups featured in a positive article in the Argus, a two page spread about a fortnight ago.

Publicity Secretary KS gave KC's phone number to Risca Leisure Centre after they requested extra walks programs. One of the new walkers recruited via the web site had arrived without a packed lunch.

Area AGM Cwmcarn is booked. We can't use the kitchen, but we can use their utensils! KP received a letter from the warden at Cwmcarn who is making an "Objective 1 Grant Bid" for better facilities. KP sent a letter of strong support.

South Gwent Group AGM FF to provide 20 copies of last year's minutes and the year's accounts.

Proposed London coach trip - 7th July 2001 The following summarises the itinerary:

We start at Chelsea Harbour and Marina (where the rich and famous live) This is in contrast to the next part of walk which takes us past Battersea Power Station, a listed building; and on to Cremorne Gardens. Then it's along Chelsea Embankment, passing

some very attractive houseboats. We cross the river by means of the Albert Bridge into Battersea Park, the site of the Festival of Britain in 1951. The Park has lovely gardens and wonderful sports facilities. We pass the Peace Pagoda, built by Japanese Bhuddists in 1985. We then recross the river to the Embankment and enter into the Royal Chelsea Hospital where we shall meet up with a Chelsea Pensioner Guide who will show us around this historic and fascinating building, which was founded by Charles 2nd in 1682, and built by Sir Christopher Wren. This the highlight of the walk. Time permitting , we shall then visit the Cathedral of Arts and Crafts before returning to Vauxhall Bridge Road (Victoria) for a meal and to pick up our coach.

Irene has agreed this one and indicates that early booking is essential.

Any other business . None

Next Committee Meeting to be decided after AGM.