

South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the committee meeting held on

28 March 2001

Members present - Ken Phillips (KP), Brian Williams (BW), Adrian Sheehan (AS), Fred Fee (FF), Val Clark (VC), Keith Cooper (KC), Howard Harvey (HH).

The meeting was overshadowed by a widespread outbreak of Foot and Mouth disease (F&M) that the Government had allowed to grow out of control.

Apologies for absence from Ray Cantwell and Kath Saddler

Minutes of last meeting were adopted

Matters arising from the minutes 19.1.1

para 4b(ii) KP asked for details of the pressure exerted on the RA by the Charity Commission. KC got information from the internet that the RA were short of cash and appeared to be looking at the groups for any spare cash. Area would like the money to stay in the groups and is looking at ways of richer groups helping poorer groups. In addition, Terry Squires thinks there are legal limitations

on sponsorship. The Treasurer's report below elucidates.

para 4c(i) not sure whether RC contacted the Argus.

para 4f BW noted that copied versions of our walks program in the library looked tatty because blue does not photocopy well. **AS will produce white copies without leaders' telephone numbers.**

Matters arising from the minutes 22.2.1

RC will contact Newport's incoming Countryside Officer about siting of a proposed bench.

SGR policy regarding F&M

KP indicates that the RA ask us not to walk unless we have to. FF noted that he had invited some members to view slides one evening and they all indicated that they were missing the social side of walking as well as the exercise. There is a need in the group for activities despite the current ban on walking in the countryside.

Officers' reports

Secretary KP - see attached sheet

Treasurer BW ...

... reports £1456.07 in the kitty, the same as at the last meeting. He has paid donations *in memoriam* to an Alzheimer's charity (Reg Evans) and to Mind (Lorraine Steele). A 10% deposit for the Flatholm trip has been paid and the cost of the Area AGM has

been met by the area (thanks to John Ridley for prompt payment).

At a Treasurer's meeting John Ridley said that he would make representations to Area and would report back at the next Treasurer's meeting on 25 April. John indicated that the RA may be going to propose reducing or stopping Group allocation to get money more quickly. KP would like the Welsh RA to ask richer groups to transfer funds to poorer groups and would like to keep the money in Wales. KC is concerned that money is being diverted to RA head office.

Footpaths Officer RC - report received from RC (attached) was considered and no comments arose.

Rambles Officer AS

Not many offers of walks for the Summer program had been made in anticipation of the effects of F&M.

AS suggested that Alun Booth's nine very short walks could take place on various days of the week to encourage more widespread support and some could be designated Walk and Talk events. Alan would like volunteers to lead some of the walks. FF suggested introducing them with a fanfare in the Argus, but Alan would be shy of that. **KC will introduce a separate area for these walks on the group Web site and AS will produce sheets for siting in doctors' surgeries which can run parallel to their current Walking for Health initiative.**

AS suggested leaving the walks program fallow until the progress of F&M becomes clearer. Suggestion from the committee for allowable walks included disused railways, Cosmeston, Winkworth Arboretum, two walks in Newport, Cardiff Bay, Severn Bridge, National Botanic Garden, Sully Island, St Fagan's,

guided tours of Bath and Bristol, Bristol-to-Bath cycle track, Cotswolds, Swansea->Mumbles, Tintern and the Big Pit. KC noted that the Big Pit charges £4.75 per person for groups and that some urban walks were listed on the RA Web site. AS would welcome any further suggestions. **AS will ring Alan Booth re Cardiff Bay and try to organise quickly a program to accompany the next Newsletter** , a draft of which he has from KP.

The Flatholm trip BW reports that all April sailings are cancelled because of F&M and it is likely that the trip will have to be cancelled. Meanwhile, BW will delay the general availability of tickets to 22 April.

The London trip Irene has “pre-walked” the tour. A Chelsea Pensioner will act as a guide and provide tea and biscuits. KP has booked Croydon Coaches for the trip.

KP notes that the University of the Third Age is interested in receiving notice of our events such as the London coach trip.

Christmas Len is trying to book 14 December at Newport Golf Club

Membership Secretary VC - nothing to report

Publicity Secretary KS was not present. BW has delayed the library exhibition to May. KC has twice emailed Real Radio about publicity but has received no response.

IT Officer's report KC reports 502 hits at 18 January and 984 today and has received emails from Missouri, New Zealand and Thailand.

Any other business . KP reports a good turnout at Lorraine's funeral, has talked to Clive and sent a letter on behalf of the Group. Clive plans to continue walking and will attend a lunch at the Goose and Cuckoo organised by FF and BW as a Group social event.

Next Committee Meeting 1 May.

Footpath Officer's Report

Pathcare Scheme

At the moment everything is on hold. Matthew has left all the information that I passed on to him on file for his successor. I've spoken to the department in the Civic Centre and have been assured that a new appointment should be made in the near future.

Proposed Diversions

1. Footpaths 10, 11, 16 and 17 (Coedkernew) - moved away from properties - solving the problem of these paths being obstructed as they have for many years where they pass through Berry Hill Farm.

2. Footpath 45 (Caerleon) - this path crosses the A449 and should have been diverted by the Side Roads Order made in the 1960's during the construction of the dual carriageway. This diversion is in the interests of public safety and will also improve the links with

the existing footpath network.

Confirmations

1. Footpath 76 (Newport) - Comfrey Close - moved away from houses across open space.

2. Footpaths 21 and 22 (Coedkernew) - moved away from buildings

Modifications

1. Footpath from Vaughan Williams Drive to Aberthaw Close. Path claimed by local residents as a footpath that has been used for at least twenty years.

Extinguishments

1. Footpath 4 (Redwick) - Wide local consultations had taken place. Visits made by footpath officer, Judy Cox, representative from HQ and Matthew Hamar.

Proposed Diversions - two

Confirmation of Diversions - two

Modifications - one

Extinguishments - one

Correspondence

1. R.A. General Council – Member Profile File
2. R.A. Motions for General Council 2001 File
3. R.A. Annual Report 1999/2000 Brian
4. Access Bulletin – March 2001 Ray
5. Foot & Mouth Disease – R.A. Policy File
6. Countryside Update – February 2001 Ray
7. Footpath Campaigner – March 2001 Ray
8. Welsh Council Minutes – 15/2/01 File
9. Welsh Council Constitution as at 17/3/01 File
10. Welsh Council EC Bulletin – March 2001 File
11. Photographs for Displays Adrian
12. Recruitment Leaflet Distribution Kath
13. R.A. staff changes File
14. Walk & Talk Request Adrian
15. Welsh Council Annual Report 1999/2000 Brian
16. G.G.A. Minutes -- 6/12/00 File
17. G.G.A. – Possible Sec's Meeting. Ken