



# South Gwent Ramblers



## Minutes of the committee meeting held on 10 July 2008

*Members present* - Fred Fee, Ken Phillips, Christine Plateeuw, Adrian Sheehan, Derek Humble, Brian Turner, Kath Carter, Brian Williams, Jan Waagener.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Val Clark, Diana Osman, Keith Cooper and Julie Hepburn
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted with “Maggie Smith” amended to read “Maggie Thomas” in para 2.1.4
3. *Matters arising from the minutes*

3.1. Re para 3.2, no further demand for money has been made.

3.2. Re para 3.5:

The **Bristol coach ramble** was rearranged to feature three walks.

The **Rhosilli coach ramble** was so successful that a larger coach had to be ordered

The **Wetlands ramble** has been finalised for 7 August.

The **Barbecue** is to be held on 17 August at a new site in Cwmcarn with Jan organising the walk, Fred the meat and Kath other food and accoutrements. Fred will do the cooking. Numbers by 10 August.

#### 4. *2008 Calendar*

Rhosilli coach trip, Newquay coach trip, the barbecue and the Scotland trip are underway. A skittles match is to be organised by Kath for 13 November with Jan organising the catering. Christine reports that the next walks programme is almost complete.

#### 5. *Stepping Stones*

Martin Beavan organised a representative to come on one of our evening walks to assess its suitability as a Stepping Stones walk. He decided that it was not suitable. We have tried to further our interest with those responsible for Stepping Stones and similar walks, but nothing has come of it.

#### 6. *Officers' reports*

6.1. *Secretary* Ken noted that he was receiving less bumh from the RA and presented the correspondence that he had received:

1	R.A.	Campaigns Footpath Matters	May 08	Derek
2	R.A.	Extra Large Waistcoats	Apr 08	File
3	R.A.	Rail Ramble Islwyn Ramblers	Jun 08	Discuss/File
4	R.A.	Footpath Matters	Jul 08	Derek
5	R.A.	Group News	Summer 08	Discuss/File
6	R.A.	Circular re Children & the RA	Summer 08	Discuss/File
7	R.A.	Circular re Membership Reports	Summer 08	Discuss/File
8	Garry's Kitchen	Catering for Nov 08 Skittles Evening	Summer 08	Discuss/File

## 6.2. Treasurer Brian W

- 6.2.1. The current bank balance stands at £1,733.90. Keith Cooper has claimed the same expenses for running the website as previously, £36 per half year. Pre-walk expenses to date amount to £226, as compared with £372 for all of last year. The budget figure this current year for promoting walking has, on the face of it, been pitched too high. So with fewer claims for pre-walking expenses than expected, I see us requesting a smaller grant from the RA in the forthcoming year. I did not take up the kind offer of the RA to attend a one day regional training course for treasurers at Southampton University. With the end of the financial year on 30 September, please submit all expense claims, if possible, by the middle of September. Any late requests will be carried forward into the following year's account which I would like to keep to a minimum.
- 6.2.2. The form for claiming out of pocket expenses, such as the cost of travel to pre-walks currently asks for the price of fuel rather than expenses @ 25p per mile. Fred agreed to change the form.
- 6.2.3. Do we want to call a committee meeting before submitting a budget? Ken suggested that we work out the budget in the same way as we did for the last one: he also pointed out that further allocations of money for other could be made if any turn up, which was unlikely. There was no dissent. A meeting will therefore not be needed.
- 6.2.4. Details of the accounts are as follows

<b>Excursion</b>	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>Profit</b>
Westonbirt	£330	£330	£0
Exmouth	£630	£626.95	£3.05

All indications are that we will not exceed our budget:

<b>Item</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Actual expenditure</b>
Access	£45	£25
Countryside	£108	£59
Promoting walking	£543	£314
Pre-walk expenses	<u>£750</u>	<u>£290</u>
	£1446	£688

## 6.3. Footpaths Officer Derek

- 6.3.1. There have been several applications for footpath alterations since the last report, including the realignment of four paths at Clearwell Farm in Michaelstone, following barn conversions, which will be considered at an on-site survey pending a dry day. The expected route of the new M4 from Magor to Castleton over the Gwent levels has been circulated to interested parties, and I have commented on the plans from the PRoW point of view on behalf of the Ramblers Association. Newport lost 57% of its north-south footpath links when the original M4/A48M were built, and from the new plans another link could be severed. Firm representations have been sent to Arup who are handling the project, to include a solution to this possible loss. Newport City Council's Countryside Section is in consultation with them to minimise further erosion of the links, and also to look after ramblers best interests.

- 6.3.2. There have been further planning issues regarding Robert Price's Transport Yard in Corporation Road, mainly on visual aspects. They have appealed to the Planning Inspectorate and won their case.
- 6.3.3. There is no further news on the proposed changes to three paths at Newport Golf Club.
- 6.3.4. We are still waiting for the new ROWIP report from the City Council as promised. It is said to be waiting to be printed.
- 6.3.5. Research is continuing into finding possible new right's of way in conjunction with coastal access on behalf of Newport City Council and two green lanes have been adopted as highways between Redwick and Goldcliff. There should be more to follow.

6.4. *Rambles Officer* Christine had nothing further to report

6.5. *Membership Secretary* Fred was promised high visibility jackets from Area. Derek received them. Five reams of coloured paper were obtained for printing the programmes now that the printer no longer takes the thicker card.

6.6. *Publicity Secretary* Ken, standing in for Val, reported that in May membership increased from 192 to 194 but nothing has been heard from RA since. The last list of members received from the RA contained numerous errors which Ken reported.

6.7. *IT Officer's report* Keith was not present.

6.8. *Area representative* Adrian reported that the area AGM will be held on 2 October at Pant Newenydd Cricket Club.

## 7. AOB

7.1. Derek bought a copy of the latest edition of "Lower Wye Rambles" and will hold it for the use of the group.

7.2. Diana has a copy of Maggie Thomas' Cwmcarn walks for use by the group.

*Next Committee Meeting* is on Thursday 2 October.