



South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the committee meeting held on 8 October 2008

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

1. *Apologies for absence* from Jan and diana

2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted

2.1. *Matters arising from the minutes*

2.1.1. *Re item 4* Jan has booked the skittles for 13 November and his wife booked the catering @ £4.95. On Jan's advice, we agreed to order for 25 on the assumption that 35 would turn up.

2.1.2. *Re item 3.2* Thanka to Fred for organising the Wetlands visit. *Re item 6.8* Area AGM is on Sunday 2 November at Pontnewynydd.

2.1.3. *Re item 6.2.2* Done.

2.1.4. *Re item 6.5* Adrian received the high visibility jackets. Fred took three and Ken two for use on walks. A note in the program should be made to inform members of their use and availability.

2.1.5. *Re Officer's Reports* Val and Fred's names were reversed.

3. *Possible events fro 2009*

3.1. *Coach trip* Ian Reese has submitted a walk including a rail trip near Minehead and Paul Mellor has submitted a walk at Lynmouth with Christine Bryan doing the short walk. After discussion, the committee decided that the two were too close physically to accommodate both. Ian's submission was chosen, since it was submitted first.

3.2. *Weekend away* Dave Fereday suggested that we canvas the opinion of the members and provide them with a list of possible trips from which to select. We agreed that we should do this. To get the ball rolling, Adrian suggested walks in the vicinity of Cader Idris and Ken suggested the Derbyshire Dales.

4. *Officers' reports*

4.1. *Secretary* Ken presented the correspondence that he had received:

R.A.	Campaigns Countryside Matters	Jun 08	Derek
S.G.R.	Letter to Planning Inspectorate re Ruperra	Jun 08	File
R.A.	Reduced rate .membership	Jul 08	Discuss/File
S.G.R.	Letter to R.A. re Kath's Carter's and Chris Harris' addresses	Jul 08	File
R A	Access Bulletin	Aug 08	Derek
S.G.R.	Letter to Newport Golf Club	Aug 08	File
G.A.B.	Two G.A.B. fundraising events	Aug 08	File
R.A.	Countryside Questionnaire	Aug 08	Discuss/Derek
C.C.B.C	Letter re Ruperra Planning Application	Aug 08	Discuss/File
R. A.	email from Annwen re Stepping Stones	Aug 08	Discuss/File

S.G.R.	2008 Area Report to Adrian	Aug 08	file
S.G.R.	letter to R.A. re Robin Hilborne address		File
R.A.	South Wales Footpath Training Day	Sept 08	Discuss/File
R.A.	Volunteer Day - new date	Sept 08	Discuss/File
R.A.	Rail Rambles Co-ordinator	Sept 08	Discuss/File
R.A.	Notification of group AGMs	Sept 08	Discuss/File
S.G.R.	email from Fred re Programmes for non members		Discuss/File
S.G.R.	email from Diana re BBQ site		Discuss/File
G.G.	email from Adrian re M4 rally		Discuss/File

4.2. Treasurer Brian W

4.2.1. The provisional accounts for the financial year 2007/8 are:

Opening balance	1 October 2007		<u>1535.40</u>
Income			
	Christmas dinner	475.00	
	RA Holidays advertisements	100.00	
	Allocation from Area — Membership	776.00	
	Coach ramble — Bristol	280.00	
	Coach ramble — Rhossili	250.00	
	Interest — Unity bank (to be adjusted - see below)	<u>29.27</u>	
			<u>1910.57</u>
Expenditure			
	Christmas dinner	483.00	
	Coach Ramble — Bristol	280.00	
	Coach Ramble — Rhossili	250.00	
	RA Charitable Objectives		
	Footpaths	0.00	
	Countryside protection	0.00	
	Access	0.00	
	Promoting walking		
	Administration/Publicity	575.35	
	Pre-walk expenses	<u>617.18</u>	
			<u>1192.23</u>
			<u>2231.23</u>
Excess of expenditure over income			<u>320.99</u>
Closing balance	30 September 2008		<u>1214.74</u>

Under the heading Charitable objectives - Footpaths, Countryside Protection and Access - only a small cost is involved, thanks to local council funding in our area. Promoting walking is an increasing cost, on both administration, publicity and prewalk expenses which contribute to the budget figure being overspent by £245. We intend continuing having a working balance of £1,000 for this year.

4.2.2. Our usual social events and coach outings have all been successful and virtually broken even.

4.2.3. The interest from the Unity bank is shown above for six months only: the final accounts will show a full year's interest. Further expenses may arrive before the accounts are finalised.

4.2.4. A letter from the RA indicates that mileage rates for expenses should be increased to 28p per mile from 25p per mile. The letter also indicates that we should discourage members from claiming for expenses for prewalks. After consulting the Area Treasurer we are assured that we can safely ignore the exhortation to discourage such expenses.

4.2.5. We shall be applying for a budget allowance this year of £1183, an increase that still allows for a decrease in our balance to the £1000 working balance that we feel is safe. The budget allowance application is as follows:

Opening balance as at 30 September 2008		<u>1214</u>
Anticipated expenditure to fund the group 1 October 2008 - 30 September 2009		
Footpaths	0	
Countryside protection	0	
Access	25	
Promoting walking		
Administration/Publicity (10% increase)	632	
Prewalk expenses (10% increase)	<u>740</u>	
	<i>Expenditure</i>	<u>1397</u>
	<i>Deficit</i>	183
To meet the above anticipated costs and retain a working balance of £100 annually, we request the budget allowance for the coming year be set at		<u>1183</u>
<i>Working balance</i>		<u>1000</u>

4.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek

There have been several Footpath Diversion Orders since the last report, which confirm the acceptance of diversions, but no new applications.

Two previously proposed diversions have been declined following valid objections from our Group.

The Woodland Trust are applying for Orders to restrict traffic movements on restricted byways within Wentwood Forest, due to an increase in fly tipping and the fear of 'raves' taking place. The cost of removing rubbish dumped in this area is getting out of hand.

Unfortunately access to all but two car parks is now denied due partly to the possibility of unwanted activities taking place after dark! Barriers are going up everywhere.

Two ramblers have recently sent in details of footpath problems and these are being dealt with by the relevant authorities.

Efforts are ongoing to establish new and improved rights of way, especially in the Caldicot and Wentloog Levels areas in conjunction with Coastal Access.

4.4. *Rambles Officer* Christine

4.4.1. Christine reported that she had received a few reports that the web site had not been updated and Keith will be informed.

4.4.2. Maggie Thomas wants to promote Rail Rambles by leading one for us on a Saturday. We agreed that she should.

4.4.3. Ken had heard from members that there were a disproportionate number of strenuous long walks. After discussion it was agreed that we should try for a more balanced program.

4.4.4. Fred had heard that some members were not too happy with the number of walks involving long drives to the start points. We agreed to try not to do so many.

4.4.5. Ken had received a request from Pembrokeshire Ramblers asking if we could provide leaders for walks one weekend near Abergavenny. We agreed that we should, perhaps on a reciprocal basis.

4.5. *Membership Secretary* Fred

4.5.1. Programs have been laid out and distributed to Newport, Carphilly and Abergavenny Tourist Information Offices. A newsletter was also laid out and printed.

4.5.2. Brian indicated that it was a while since we had an exhibition in the library. Fred agreed that we should have one.

4.6. *Publicity Secretary* Val indicated that membership was 196 at 31 September, near the target of 200. The figure is suspect since the RA are having problems with the membership database on their new computer system.

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

5. *Area Representative* Adrian

5.1. Adrian noted that the Area Walk attracted over 100 of whom the best part of 20 came from the SGR.

5.2. The Area committee have been mulling over the functions of the Area and they would like to hear exactly what we think they should be doing. We agreed to think about it and respond.

5.3. The Area AGM will be in the format Walk -> AGM -> Food.

6. *AOB*

6.1. Area agree that we can pay for the provision of food at the SGR AGM on Sunday 16 November. Ken, Val and Kath will set up the food for 25 at £3 per head.

6.2. The Christmas Walk on Tuesday 30 December will feature an easy four-mile walk and then lunch at the Rose, Redwick.

Next Committee Meeting to be decided at the AGM