



Members present - Fred Fee, Ken Phillips, Brian Williams, Christine Platteeuw, Derek Humble, Kath Carter, Dave Fereday.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Brian Turner, Val Clark, Jan Wagenaar, Adrian Sheehan.
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted.
3. *Matters arising from the minutes*
 - 3.1. *Re para 3.7* Dave cannot manage the Severn Bore date and will find a substitute leader.
 - 3.2. *Re para 4.1.4* All participants are expected to be CRV vetted, making the prospect of volunteering for leading walks for the blind less attractive to ramblers.
 - 3.3. *Re para 4.1.5* Fred has not yet contacted other groups and will do so.
 - 3.4. *Re para 4.2.1* Fred has not yet sold the mono laser printer.
 - 3.5. *Re para 5.1* The enquiry into the Ruperra Castle planning application took place but the decision has not yet been published.
4. *2009 Calendar*
 - 4.1. The *skittles evening* was excellent, thanks to Kath, Jan and his wife Jen.
 - 4.2. The *Pembroke Ramblers walk* went well and they sent a letter of thanks together with an invitation to join them in Pembroke. Ken suggested that we might ask them to do a walk at Freshwater West.
 - 4.3. Our walk for the *Monmouth Festival of Walks* did not make it into their programme.
 - 4.4. The *Minehead long, short and very short walks* attracted a large following and the ride on the train was enjoyed. Most walkers caught sight of the recently commissioned A2 class locomotive “”.
 - 4.5. The *Tenby trip* is all arranged and the walks pre-walked.
 - 4.6. *AGM* - Diana has booked the hall in Ilanishen and will lead a walk prior to the meeting. Kath will organise the food. Val and Ken will prepare the lunch.
 - 4.7. The *Newquay trip* is all but arranged. Dave will give Ken walk details so that he can sort out drop-off and pick-up points in conjunction with Dinah's walk.
5. *September programme*
 - 5.1. *Sandwell Ramblers* walks to be organised and finalised.
 - 5.2. Ken may organise a visit to *Tredegar House*.
 - 5.3. *Llancaiach Fawr* visit was mooted.
 - 5.4. Fred will organise a slide show of the Group visit to *Torridon*.
 - 5.5. Dave will look into organising a *Croquet evening* at Duffryn Gardens.

6. *Officers' reports*

6.1. *Secretary* Ken Phillips reported on the following correspondence:

RA	Fund Raising Walks	Discuss/File
RA	Walking Environment News	Derek
SGR	Letter to Annwen Parker re Branding	File
SGR	Mon Festival Walks - Insurance	File
RA	Practical Work Insurance Cover	File
SGR	Fred Fee's email re Off Road Vehicles	File
GGA	Email re Cotswold Outdoor Vouchers	File
GAB	CRB vetting for Walks Leaders	File
RP	Email from River Publishing	Fred
RA	Email re Arriva Trains	Fred
MFC	E.mail re 2009 Festival	Fred
RA	Festival of Winter Walks Submission Form	Christine
RA	Rebrand Q & A leaflet	File
RA	Group News	File
EA	Refurbishment of Overhead Power Lines	File
MC	Sponsored Challenge	File

6.2. *Treasurer* Brian Williams reported:

The RA area treasurer has been asked to forward the outstanding payment, some £40, for sending an area newsletter by post earlier in the year, which to date has not been forthcoming. Keith Cooper has been paid his internet fee, some months ago, but as yet has not banked the cheque.

Cheques have been issued for the two forthcoming coach trips.

Our current balance in the bank stands at £1,078.

The Chairman/Secretary requested an up to the minute budgetary position, which the treasurer agreed to provide.

6.2.1. Ken asked if we were still trying to reduce our reserves to 40% of spending. Brian replied that he will consult the Area Treasurer.

6.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek Humble

There has been one Footpath Diversion Application covering 12 paths at Castle Farm, Penhow, and six other Diversion Orders throughout our area, plus one Extinguishment Application.

The path system at Castle Farm is being rationalised to exclude walkers from the working areas in the yards and move them to more pleasant locations where the routes have been simplified.

The 14 paths around the farm are due to become only 5 or 6.

Diversion Applications are taking up to a year to process due to a backlog created in part by Graphics section at Civic Centre, which produces the maps which are sent out to interested parties.

Other applications have been received for planning permission for extensions to dwellings close to Rights of Way, including a new hotel at Parc Golf Club, Coedkemew.

Newport City Council have produced leaflets and a booklet featuring interesting walks of various lengths in the surrounding area. These will be distributed when they become available. The volunteer group are presently engaged in waymarking and improving/maintaining the paths involved.

Alterations to paths at Celtic Manor Golf Club have slowed yet again - they will simply apply for temporary footpath closures during major events.

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

6.4. *Rambles Officer* Christine Plateeuw reported that the next programme is filling up nicely.

6.5. *Membership Secretary* Ken Phillips pp Val Clark reported that we have 193 members. The number remains suspect since we have had two new members and no resignations and yet we have the same number of members.

6.6. *Publicity Secretary* Fred Fee

6.6.1. Fred published the programme and distributed it to the Tourist Information Offices in Newport, Caerphilly and Abergavenny.

6.6.2. Ken asked if we were to have a display in the library. Brian responded that there were no displays possible because of ongoing building works.

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

7. *AOB*

7.1. Brian is holding the latest edition of "Lower Wye Rambles".

7.2. We agreed that our Newsletter will include relevant events from the Ruperra Newsletter.

8. *Next committee meeting* on Thursday 24 September at 7pm.