



South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on
23 September 2010 at Newport Civic Centre

Members present - Fred Fee, Ken Phillips, Derek Humble, Adrian Sheehan, Brian Turner, Dave Fereday.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Brian Williams and Val Clark
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted
3. *Matters arising from the minutes*
 - 3.1. The Linton and Kidderminster trips went well.
 - 3.2. On the Boules night, members enjoyed a meal in the pub but the boules had to be abandoned because of heavy rain.
 - 3.3. So far, 22 have signed up for the Newquay trip. Dave and Ken have sorted out the programme and the Saturday will be the free day.
 - 3.4. The Westonbirt trip is popular with 29 places booked so far. In fact it is too popular since guides there are limited to 25 at a time. Ken negotiated the limit up to 28 and is confident that all will be well on the day.
 - 3.5. For the Area AGM, Ponthir Village Hall is booked and catering for 50 is arranged. Fred will be present at the Hall well before the start of the event to sort out any problems with the Hall management.
 - 3.6. For the South Gwent Ramblers AGM, we meet at the Civic centre as usual before the walk. Diana is leading a walk from Devauden in the morning. After the walk we go to Llanishen Village Hall for the AGM. Ken, Val and Kath will organise food for 30.
 - 3.7. This meeting is the first where Fred distributed minutes and agendas to committee members by email. There were no problems with the distribution.
4. *Officers' reports*
 - 4.1. *Secretary* Ken Phillips presented a list of correspondence:

1	FF	Update on SGR Website / Keith Cooper	File
2	KP	Letter to Newport Golf Club re Christmas Dinner	File
3	KP	Letter to RA re Pam Jones	File
4	RA	Get Walking for Games 2012	Dave
5	RA	Regional Meetings Oct/Nov 2010	File
6	AS	Wales AGM - 2 April 2011	File
7	RA	RA Newsletter on line	File
8	RA	Publicity Training	Fred
9	RA	Ramblers Communication Grid	Fred
10	TC	Ted's emails	File
 - 4.1.1. Ken quoted an email that Fred had received from Keith. Keith has, after a long time ill, now fully recovered. He had found a new partner and is hoping at some time to move to West Wales. The software that he uses to maintain the South Gwent Ramblers web site is now not being updated but will be usable for a good few years: we do not have to think about redesigning the site yet. Keith said that he can continue to update the site for us from West

Wales, since Keith can receive data for updating our site by email and maintain the site remotely.

The committee were pleased to hear about Keith's good fortune and heartily wish Keith well for the future.

- 4.2. *Treasurer* Brian Williams was not present but prepared the putative accounts (attached at the end of these minutes) and the following report:

A copy of the draft year end account is attached (*see* end of minutes).

At the end of September 2010, our Area Treasurer had not received from the Ramblers Association in London, notification if our budget figure of £898 will be met in full or capped as last year. Hopefully, details will be forthcoming in October.

As soon as the situation is clarified and if needs be, a meeting of Area Treasurers will be held to discuss our way forward. Whatever transpires, we must consider ways and means of reducing our costs to avoid further jeopardising our reserve fund of approximately £950.

It is noted that, at a Welsh Council meeting earlier this year, it was stated the financial situation of the Ramblers Association was still not on a sound footing. Listening to committee members who have dealings with London office, this is still the case.

- 4.2.1. Brian T asked whether we should continue to support Ruperra in the light of cuts that are being made. The committee decided to continue their support because Ruperra are interested in footpaths in their area.

- 4.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek Humble

Since our last meeting in June, eight documents have been received for diversions, extinguishments and planning applications which may affect public footpaths in our area. There has been no need to comment on, or to object to any of the proposals.

Plans are afoot again to restrict traffic movements on two roads in Wentwood in order to combat raves and fly-tipping.

Celtic Manor have had their application refused to convert a barn into a dwelling, refurbish an existing farmhouse, Draenllwyn Farm, on Catsash Road and relocate Little Bulmore Farm to this site, also known as Haines Farm. As you may well know, a deal was done with CADW to demolish the newer parts of the farmhouse prior to the Ryder Cup event, this was concluded within a couple of weeks, surely a record for this organisation noted for its ability to rarely ever bring anything to a conclusion.

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

- 4.3.1. Derek has heard that the ancient iron Carriageway Bridge at Dreathen will soon re-open after extensive restoration.

- 4.4. *Rambles Officer* Dave Fereday

4.4.1. Some new leaders have emerged lately, even though the number of walks this programme is down from the usual.

4.4.2. Derek would like to stand down from organising the Christmas walk. The best date for this year's Christmas walk is probably Wednesday 29 December. Fred volunteered to look into using the Hall Inn at Gwehelog for this year's walk.

4.4.3. Another trip to Ashbury has been mooted.

4.4.4. Ken noted that there were no longer any "Walking Wounded" walks. Word from the Group's short walkers suggests that there is some support for short, easy walks. Adrian said that we need a name more attractive than "Walking Wounded". Dave suggested that we could have short and very short walks (perhaps called long medium and short walks) on alternative weekend, with a long walk each week.

1. Dave and Ian have discussed a coach trip to the Mid-Hants Railway for another railway walk.
 2. Ken has received details of a walking holiday in the Isle of Wight to make a change from the Newquay trips. A Hotel will organise guided walks, providing transport if necessary, and will provide free coach travel for the sea crossing - a considerable saving as the fare for the crossing is one of the most expensive sea routes per mile. All included for £164pp for half board for five nights. Ken will explore further.
 3. A trip to Buxton was also mooted.
2. *Membership Secretary* Val Clark was absent and her report was read out by Ken. Fred explained how more accurate figures from Area falsely made it look as if the annual figures were down. The more recent, accurate figures indicate a trend to a small increase in membership in the Groups in Gwent.
 3. *Publicity Secretary* Fred Fee reported a quiet period with the usual editing, printing and distribution of newsletters and programmes carried out.
 4. *IT Officer's report* Keith Cooper's situation was reported above.
2. *Area* Adrian Sheehan
 - 2.1. Publishing of Area newsletters will cease. Adrian asked what we thought about this. Ken likes to see what other Groups are doing; he would like to see a publication sent to Groups for them to do with what they will: Groups could send a reports for inclusion.
 - 2.2. The Area budget was discussed at a recent Area meeting. No conclusion could be drawn because the Ramblers Association had not yet finalised Area allocation. A further meeting of Area will be held when the Ramblers Association decides.
 - 2.3. Ken asked if we are due to do the Area Walk. Adrian said that he would find out.
 3. *Possible future events* were discussed under the Rambles Officer's report above.
 4. *AOB*
 - 4.1. Dave noted that we have no Vice-Chairman. He was not aware of the procedure should the Chairman be indisposed. Ken said that other members of the committee take it in turn to substitute for the Chairman.
 - 4.2. Ken sends newsletters out twice a year and programmes are sent out three times a year. In future, he will try to synchronise publication of the newsletters with that of the programmes so that they can be sent together.
 5. *Next committee meeting* on 27 January 2011.

Projected Year End Draft of SGR Statement of Accounts as at 8 September 2010

Opening Balance		£	1,025.50
Income	£		
Sale of laser printer	30.00		
Christmas dinner	352.00		
R.A. Holiday advert	40.00		
Allocation from Area	718.00		
Coach Ramble - Windsor	600.00		
Coach Ramble - Lynmouth	450.00		
Coach Ramble - Kidderminster	360.00		
Coach Ramble - Westonbirt	72.00		
Bank interest	<u>00.63</u>	£	
		2,622.63	
Expenditure			
Christmas dinner	352.00		
Coach Ramble - Windsor	600.00		
Coach Ramble - Lynmouth	450.00		
Coach Ramble - Kidderminster	360.00		
R.A. Objectives Access	25.00		
Promote walking	538.01		
Prewalking	<u>284.84</u>		
		<u>2,609.85</u>	
Excess of income over expenditure			12.78
	Draft closing balance		1,038.28