



# South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on  
27 January 2011 at Newport Civic Centre

*Members present* - Fred Fee, Ken Phillips, Val Clark, Brian Turner, Dave Fereday, Christine Plateeuw.

1. *Apologies for absence* Adrian Sheehan, Brian Williams, Derek Humble
2. *Minutes of last South Gwent Ramblers meeting* were adopted
3. *Matters arising from the minutes of the last South Gwent Ramblers meeting*
  - 3.1. *Re item 3.3* The Newquay trip was once again a success story. Our walks were excellent thanks to Dave who organised them and John Applebee who helped with the short walks. Although many would return to Newquay next year, it was decided to try a new venue in 2011.
  - 3.2. *Re item 3.4* Our visit to Westonbirt Arboretum was first class. The weather was exceptional and the guides made our visit worthwhile as did the colour of the trees.
  - 3.3. *Re item 4.4.2* Fred did indeed take up the challenge to organise the Christmas Walk and everyone enjoyed the walk and the food. Thanks Fred.
  - 3.4. *Re item 4.4.3* Ashbury has been booked and we leave on 6 February.
  - 3.5. *Re item 4.4.4* Walking Wounded Walks. Ken suggested that we hold them once a month rather than once a week. The meeting thought that once a month would lack the continuity of having the walks alternating with the medium length walks, and so Dave will try to find volunteers for such walks.
4. *Matters arising from the AGM of South Gwent Ramblers on 21 November 2010*
  - 4.1. Ken reported a good turn-out at the AGM. Thanks to Diana, Kath and Val for their contribution.
  - 4.2. The 2011 Events Calendar was agreed as suggested in by the outgoing committee.
  - 4.3. Volunteers are needed for catering at the barbecue and the next AGM. Sandra, Diane, Linda, Margaret, Phyllis and Joan all offered their services.
  - 4.4. Charles Wood suggested a "Buddy - buddy" system to encourage new walks leaders to come forward. He suggested that experienced leaders should offer to accompany new leaders when they pre-walked a route so that they could pass on their experience. Fred and Dave expressed an interest in helping.
5. *Welsh Council on 2 and 3 April at Cross Keys Rugby Club*
  - 5.1. Greater Gwent Area are hosting the event. We are allowed to send two members as well as members who are on the committee. The walk on 2 April will be on the next South Gwent Ramblers walks programmes.
  - 5.2. A petition protesting about the proposed sale of State-owned forests was suggested by Geoffrey Williams of Dinfwr Ramblers. Fred noted that events have overtaken us; the government was not now proposing to sell the forests but to seek other ways of taking them out of State control.
  - 5.3. An email from Helen Lloyd-Jones informed us that Robert Dingle was going to walk the whole of Offa's Dyke path starting on Sunday 10 July. Members can support him.
6. *Officers' reports*

- 6.1. *Secretary* Ken Phillips
- 6.2. *Treasurer* Ken reported in Brian Williams' absence that the Christmas dinner broke even and that the first six month tranche of our annual grant has arrived in full, £469.

- 6.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek Humble was not present but sent in his report:

There have only been two minor planning applications received since the last meeting in November, neither of which impact on footpath use or enjoyment.

It is rumoured that the Countryside Department at Newport City Council is to be disbanded, and any officers remaining after realignment will be transferred to Highways where they will operate in an altered role.

The Council is obliged to carry out footpath works such as maintenance and improvement, but the intensity of any such works is down to them and their budget.

Senior personnel from Environment and Planning, and Countryside Department who championed the good work on PROWs are leaving the Council so any impetus will surely be diminished in the future.

It is to be hoped that continued use will be made of the footpath volunteer groups following the slimdown.

Communications from the Council will probably slow down at least until the changes are made and officers settle into their new positions.

- 6.4. *Rambles Officer* Dave Fereday had nothing to report except that the new programme would soon be upon us.

- 6.5. *Membership Secretary* Val Clark

- 6.6. *Publicity Secretary* Fred Fee had nothing to report

- 6.7. *IT Officer's report* Keith Cooper again nothing to report.

## 7. *Possible future events*

- 7.1. *Skittles* at Whiteheads on 23 March. They have a new steward who is willing to provide a basket meal on the night. We agreed to the offer and are nevertheless able to keep the cost of attending down to £5. We all agreed that South Gwent Ramblers should provide a cake to be presented to Jean and Arthur Butt to mark their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Kath will take the names of those who wish to go.
- 7.2. St David's, Pembroke. Ken phoned Chris, our contact at Pembroke Ramblers and she agreed to provide a 10-mile and 6-mile walks for our trip on 26 June. Ken has organised the coach at £15 per person.
- 7.3. A Mid Hants Railway walk near Winchester will be organised by Ian and Dave for 24 or 31 July.
- 7.4. Dave confirmed that the Boules evening on Thursday 7 July is still on course.
- 7.5. The venue for the barbecue on Sunday 7 August could be Cwm Carn Drive. According to Christine, Derek's walk passed close to a barbecue site where they stopped for coffee. It looked like a suitable venue. Since some organisation has been made, Tintern is still preferred for this year.
- 7.6. A suitable walk for a trip to Runnymede was proposed by Brian Williams and relayed to us by Ken. Ken will speak to Brian when he returns.
- 7.7. An alternative trip to Church Stretton was also mooted.
- 7.8. Ken noted that the Isle of Wight trip is now definitely on.
- 7.9. Dave relayed a proposed trip to the Hebrides in 2012.

8. *AOB*

*Ken noted that Howard Harvey's funeral on 7 January was well attended.*

9. *Next committee meeting* on Thursday 16 June