



South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on
16 June 2011 at Newport Civic Centre



Members present - Fred Fee, Ken Phillips, Brian Williams, Derek Humble, Val Clark, Kath Carter, Brian Turner, Dave Fereday.

Apologies for absence from Christine Platteeuw

1. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted
2. *Matters arising from the minutes* are all covered by items below
3. *Officers' reports*
 - 3.1. *Secretary* Ken Phillips presented the following list of correspondence:
 1. GG - Area Council - Meeting Agenda 9/2/11 - Discuss/File
 2. FF - Notification of Area Walk & AGM - Discuss/File
 3. KP - Invoice to Ramblers Holidays - File
 4. BG - National Botanic Gardens - Info/File
 5. RC - Info from Welsh Council Meeting - Discuss & File
 6. KP - Email to Area Chairman re Area Treasurer - Discuss & File
 7. KP - Invoice to Ramblers Holidays - File
 8. KP - Letter to Up & Under firm - Discuss & File

3.2. *Treasurer* Brian Williams reported:

The Ramblers Association are again this year requesting we submit, in July, an early budget assessment for the year 2011/12, rather than wait until September, when the financial year ends. Should we only request an amount of £216 maximum a budget is not required. This amount is considerably less than our requirements so a budget will have to be undertaken.

This current year we requested £898 through the budget to meet our anticipated costs This was eventually paid by the RA after much wrangling by members around the country.

The present situation relating to the budget allocation for this year shows we have an unexpected surplus, at this stage, amounting to some £250. This is brought about by an unexplained lack of demand for prewalk expenses: requested to date is an amount of £38. If our estimate for prewalk expenses had materialised we would by now be facing a loss against the income for the year.

Our current account stands at £1,278.

3.2.1. Ken reminded Brian that we should send £50 to the Air Ambulance

3.2.2. Brian asked Kath how much she spent on food and was told £54. Brian asked for the receipts.

3.2.3. Brian confessed to being confused about mileage allowances for prewalking. Fred agreed to amend the mileage allowance form and send it electronically to Brian.

3.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek Humble reported:

South Gwent Ramblers, as consultees, have received several footpath diversion applications since our last meeting in January.

Two of these are simply to move the legal line of a path to where they are already being walked, and the others are also of little consequence.

Two sites are being considered for large wind turbines close to paths. If allowed they will change the nature of the walks, the one near Redwick markedly so. The other is at Clearwell Farm, Pentre-Poeth Road and may blend into the background countryside more readily. Subject to the agreement of the committee, I will object to the planned site at Redwick.

Several confirmation orders have been granted for diversions mentioned in earlier reports and are in the process of being implemented on the ground by the footpath volunteer party. This work will make for better access for all.

Newport City Council's former countryside section has been realigned and is now part of Street Scene. It is run by Jo Gossage who is now Green Team Services Manager (Countryside).

There is no PROW Officer at present, the role being split between Jo and Andy Briscoombe, who is also Countryside Access Officer.

The Council is still keen to work with the volunteers and has outlined its plans for maintenance tasks for the coming year.

The Welsh Coastal Path project has been slowed by the prevarications of CCW in regard to the preferred route being too close to roosting wildfowl in certain areas. They have finally come to a decision and we now have a partially different route to establish and although close to the coast, not in view of it!

The WCP is due to open on 5th May 2012.

3.4. *Rambles Officer* Dave Fereday

3.4.1. Dave had received an email from a leader saying that he could not do a walk that he had volunteered to lead: he asked the meeting if we had any policy on this matter. The meeting agreed that if a leader was unable to lead a walk themselves, the onus was on the leader to organise a substitute walk.

3.4.2. With regard to future walking events that required booking, Ken proposed that the closing date for booking be brought forward for members and at a later date member's guests could book. The meeting agreed.

3.4.3. Ken noted that Saturday 5 May 2012 sees the opening of the Welsh Coastal Path. He asked Dave to reserve that day, a Bank Holiday, for a walk to mark the opening.

3.5. *Membership Secretary* Val Clark

Statistics

Date	SGR Membership	SGR New Members	GG (M)	GG (NM)
5/1/11	177		876	
1/2/11	175	4	872	7
1/3/11	179	2	879	10
1/4/11	176	2	871	13
1/5/11	174	1	857	7

Interesting to say the least,SGR have 9 new members and have reduced by 3 and GG have 37 new members and have reduced by 19. A lot of members must be late in renewing their membership.

More statistics and a question

Ramblers English Membership 102177

Ramblers Scottish Membership 6360

Ramblers Welsh Membership 6044

Ramblers Total Membership 114581

The English County of Surrey 6947

Do we still want devolution?

3.6. *Publicity Secretary* Fred Fee reported

Sent entry and picture to 2011 Visitor Guide for the Wye Valley and Vale of Usk.

Got walks from Dave, updated scripts to take into account new short walks, made programmes, printed and distributed them to members and to Newport and Abergavenny Tourist Information Offices. Well done Dave for getting them out quickly and accurately.

Finished and published new South Gwent Ramblers site. Converted South Gwent Ramblers history to web site and published it. Sent email to group alerting them of the new site.

Rejigged South Gwent Ramblers walks spreadsheet to allow uploading of walks onto Ramblers Association Walkfinder and uploaded the current programme of walks.

Contacted the Ramblers Association with new site address – now changed on Ramblers Association site.

1. Ken asked Fred to sort out unwanted and inaccurate articles which has twice appeared in the Argus. Ken was to write to them. Fred said that he would try to put an article in the Argus to publicise the new short walks.
2. Ken asked Fred if it was possible to arrange the walks in the programmes differently so that each grade of walk was listed separately. Fred would look into it and give Ken samples in time for a decision before the Winter programme.

2. *Area Walk*

- 2.1. Now to be organised for Sunday 11 September. The Area will not fund refreshments but last year Lower Wye funded refreshments themselves. Dave asked if we had to provide refreshments. Brian W wondered if we **had** to provide refreshments. Dave thought that we should follow Lower Wye's example and not be the first to demur. A vote was taken and the majority of those present voted for providing refreshments.
- 2.2. Ken suggests the Usk Memorial Hall as a suitable venue with the bonus that the cost would only be £25. Joan and Phyllis had volunteered to provide catering for the South Gwent Ramblers AGM and Ken will ask them if they could do so for the Area Walk. (Ken wanted long walkers rather than short walkers). Ken will contact the Hall. Ken asked Dave if he could provide walks leaders and cooks. Ken and possibly Ted will be asked to lead the walks.
- 2.3. Kath said that refreshments would probably cost us about £100.

3. *South Gwent Ramblers AGM* Ken will try to book the USK Memorial Hall for 20 November (with 13 November as a backup) and Dave will lead the walk. Ken and Val will provide a buffet.

4. *Area AGM* 6 November at a venue to be decided.

5. *First Aid courses* Derek knows of a course which is much cheaper than the Red Cross course that we held in 1989. He will investigate.

6. *2011 calendar*

- 6.1. 40 have booked for the Winchester trip, 23 for London and 41 for the Isle of Wight.
- 6.2. Koiran James (a new member) has agreed to provide food for the Barbeque but will need support.
- 6.3. Dave said that the Boules evening was going OK.
- 6.4. The next skittles evening is slated in for 20 November.
- 6.5. Fred agreed to lead the Christmas walk on Wednesday 29 December.

7. *Area matters*

- 7.1. Brian W reported that the Welsh Council meeting revealed a diversity of opinion with the Ramblers Association on one side and the Welsh and Scottish offices on the other. Behind the scenes the two Celtic nations wished to secede into separate national bodies.
- 7.2. Ken reminded the meeting that the Area Treasurer has resigned and that a new treasurer is urgently needed.

8. *AOB*

1. Ken noted that Up and Under, a Cardiff outdoor shop, are now offering 15-20% discounts to Ramblers members in addition to their usual discounts.
 2. Derek noted that Llangollen YHA were offering accommodation and breakfast to £18 per person per night.
2. *Next meeting* on Thursday 8 September