

*Members present* - Fred Fee, Ken Phillips, Brian Williams, Christine Platteeuw, Derek Humble, Adrian Sheehan, Val Clark, Kath Carter, Dave Fereday.

1. *Apologies for absence* None
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted
3. *Matters arising from the minutes*
  - 3.1. *Re para 3.2.3* The mileage allowance is 28p per mile.
  - 3.2. *Re para 3.4.3* A few ideas were bandied about regarding the proposed Welsh Coastal Path walk. Ken noted that the weekend of the walk was a Bank Holiday. Dave said that he could, nevertheless, put on a circular walk from Sudbrook. Derek noted that Newport CC had not yet finalised the route of the WCP. Ken wondered if we could link up with those responsible for coastal access: Derek responded that (a) the routes were not that good anyway with many deviating well away from the coast and (b) Andy Briscoombe of Newport CC is not available and may be too stressed to handle any queries. Ken suggested a short walk to satisfy all South Gwent Ramblers walkers. Fred suggested contacting the Argus. Dave concluded by asking if we could finalise the ideas nearer the time of the walk. The committee agreed.
4. *Officers' reports*
  - 4.1. *Secretary* Ken Phillips
    - 4.1.1. 20 November has been booked at Usk Centenary Hall for the South Gwent Ramblers AGM.
    - 4.1.2. The Ramblers Association will continue not to charge South Gwent Ramblers for address labels subject to fair use: we are unlikely to fall foul of that condition.
    - 4.1.3. Ken wrote to Keith Cooper thanking him for his work over the years as IT Officer for South Gwent Ramblers.
    - 4.1.4. The Christmas Dinner has been booked for 15 December at Newport Golf Club.
    - 4.1.5. Jean Davidson (Welsh AM) is now president of Ramblers Cymru.
    - 4.1.6. The Ramblers Association business plan raises concern about falling membership. The plan also indicates that the Ramblers Association will not in future spend money before it is received.
    - 4.1.7. The Ramblers Association are looking for ten members to volunteer to join a "Sounding Goard Group".
    - 4.1.8. We will request support from Greater Gwent Area for training.
  - 4.2. *Treasurer* Brian Williams reported that the 2010/11 accounts were audited by Alun Booth - see end of the minutes for the statement of accounts.
  - 4.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek Humble reported as follows:

The main correspondence since our last meeting has been concerned with footpath creation and extinguishments to facilitate alterations in the present system which will allow the creation of the Wales Coastal Path.

The route will be a compromise between all interested parties, with wildlife being the greatest beneficiary. From parts of the path all you will be able to see is grass and sky!

Minor amendments and reserved matters pertaining to planning applications make up the rest of the consultation for this period, and are of little significance.

I have objected to the proposed wind turbines at Redwick as agreed at the last meeting.

Andy Briscoombe, the Countryside Access Officer and part replacement for the PRoW Officer at Newport City Council has had a minor heart attack and will not be in work for a few weeks, so doubtless there will be little correspondence in the short term as the department is now seriously understaffed.

The next meeting of the LAF has been put back to the next planned meeting in November due to Andy's incapacity.

- 4.4. *Rambles Officer* Dave Fereday appealed as usual to fill in vacant walks for the walks programme and received a few walks offers. He has ably provided South Gwent Ramblers with programmes throughout the year.
  - 4.4.1. Ken wondered if the walks in the programme could be sorted by the grade of the walk. Derek suggested that the walks could be colour-coded. Fred replied that the sorting the walks was possible and would require some coding. The walks are already colour-coded by alternate day so that each day's walks are easily understood: it would be difficult to colour-code the grade of the walk without sacrificing clarity. In general, the current format is popular because it is easy to see which walks are available on a particular day. Fred will look into colour-coding the vigour of the walks in addition to colour-coding the date of the walks.
  - 4.4.2. Kath wondered if it would be an idea to stop using the term "Leisurely" walk. There was no consensus as to what the term meant with people of differing abilities having different understandings of the term.
  - 4.4.3. Dave said that he was going back to alternative weeks for short/medium walks for the Winter programme.
- 4.5. *Membership Secretary* Val Clark reported that, according to figures from Maggie Thomas (Area Membership Secretary) South Gwent Ramblers membership this year was 167, down 2, and the Greater Gwent Area membership was 869, up 2.
- 4.6. *Publicity Secretary* Fred Fee
  - 4.6.1. Fred said that he had, as usual got walks from Dave, made programmes, printed and distributed them to members and to Newport and Abergavenny Tourist Information Offices. Got mini-newsletter from Ken, typeset and distributed it with the programmes.
  - 4.6.2. That the Ramblers web site now uses a map-based Walks Finder. All our walks now show up as an icon to the centre of Newport. It is only by clicking on the this icon, in a spot unlikely to attract walkers, that any of our walks would be picked up. As a result, Fred suggested that grid reference for a walk should be refer to the destination of the walk rather than the car park for the walk. That way the icons for the walks would be distributed on the map in more attractive location. For example, a walk to Pen-y-Fan would have the grid reference of the peak. The committee agreed and Dave said that he would ask for the grid reference when trawling for walks for future walks programmes.
  - 4.6.3. Keith has now agreed that the new site will supersede the old site and that it will revert to the old web address. He is busy at the moment and will get in touch when he has the time to investigate the changes necessary to make this come about.
  - 4.6.4. The Ramblers site has been updated to reflect the new address.
- 4.7. *Area representative* Adrian
  - 4.7.1. We now have a new Area Treasurer, Sally Ward.
  - 4.7.2. Ken emailed Maurice (Area Treasurer) and talked to Dawn (Area Committee) about the possibility of recompense from Area for expenses incurred in running the Area Walk. He

asked Adrian to propose discussing the matter at the next Area Meeting and to have the matter put on the Area Meeting agenda if no cheque was forthcoming.

4.7.3. Adrian had an email from the Area Treasurer indicating that our budget had been approved by the Ramblers Association.

5. *2011/12 Calendar* fixtures and suggestions:

- 5.1. Thursday 17 November - skittles at Whiteheads at 7pm.
- 5.2. Thursday 15 December - Christmas Dinner as usual at Newport Golf Club at 7pm.
- 5.3. Thursday 29 December - Christmas walk and lunch - a 5-mile moderate walk followed by the lunch at the Hall Inn. Fred to organise with Ted.
- 5.4. February - slide show from Fred at the Civic Centre.
- 5.5. February - Oakhampton. Ken to organise.
- 5.6. March - skittles.
- 5.7. June (early) - possible midweek walking trip to Llangollen hostel. Cost of the hostel is £14pppn with hotels at about £50 per twin room per night. Attractions include a steam train, canal boats &c. Long and short volunteer leaders would be needed.
- 5.8. June (mid) - possible car trip to Crianlarich for strenuous walking. Dave to organise.
- 5.9. July - Boules at the Wheatsheaf, possibly with summer weather.
- 5.10. July - possible Coach trip to Dart Valley (Dartmouth) and train trip organised by Dave who asked for it to be raised at the AGM.
- 5.11. September (early) - possible coach trip to be organised by Ken.
- 5.12. Dave suggested Grange-over-Sands on the fringe of the Lakes for its good hotels and good walking.
- 5.13. The committee noted that Ian Reese could no longer organise the proposed trip to the Outer Hebrides.
- 5.14. Ken and Dave suggested that bookings for coach trips should be made for members only to begin with with guests being placed on a waiting lists, and then at a later date the bookings could be thrown open to guests. In this way members would not miss trips because of Guests who had booked early. Dave suggested that we bring up the subject at the AGM.

6. *AOB*

- 6.1. Derek informed us that Tuesday 18 October sees the official opening of the Iron Bridge at Draethen after its refurbishment, with dignitaries and volunteers attending.
- 6.2. Brian Turner asked if we had renewed our subscription to the Ruperra Trust and Ken replied that we had.

7. *Next committee meeting* to be decided after the AGM on 20 November.

**SOUTH GWENT RAMBLERS**  
**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS – 2010-2011**

**Opening Balance** – 1 October 2010 £987.90

**Income**

Christmas Dinner	506.00	
R.A. Holiday advert	100.00	
Allocation from Area	898.00	
Coach Ramble – Westonbirt	228.00	
Coach Ramble – St. David's	525.00	
Coach Ramble – Alton – (bus)	420.00	
Coach Ramble – Alton – (train)	189.00	
Coach Ramble – Windsor	400.00	
Bank Interest	1.32	
		£3,267.32

**Expenditure**

Christmas Dinner	506.00	
Coach Ramble – Westonbirt	300.00	
Coach Ramble – St. David's – bus	450.00	
Coach Ramble – St. David's – tip & prizes	75.00	
Coach Ramble – Alton – bus	420.00	
Coach Ramble – Alton – train fare	189.00	
Coach Ramble – Windsor	400.00	
R.A. Objectives		
Access	25.00	
Promote walking	727.53	
Prewalking	129.00	
		3,221.53

**Excess of Income over Expenditure** 45.79

**Closing Balance** – 30 September 2011 1,033.69

B. Williams Esq  
Treasurer.

T.A.L. Booth Esq  
Auditor

Dated: 10 October 2011