



South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on
6 September 2012 at Newport Civic Centre



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

1. *Apologies for absence* None
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted
3. *Matters arising from the minutes*

Ken thanked those responsible for the coastal Wales Path organisation and, in particular, for Derek Humble's extension to the inauguration walk held in concert with Newport CC.

4. *Officers' reports*

- 4.1. *Secretary* Ken Phillips presented a list of correspondence:

- Launch of Ramblers Routes in Wales
- Letter and invoice from Ramblers Holidays
- Ramblers Routes
- Active travel Notice
- Brecon Beacons Access
- Volunteer Newsletters
- HF Holidays update
- New Ramblers volunteers
- Letter booking Usk Centenary Hall for the AGM
- Regional meeting with the CEO
- Letters to Park Golf Club booking the Christmas Dinner
- Enhanced Christmas at Westonbirt

4.2. *Treasurer* Brian Williams presented the budget [2011/12 accounts follow the minutes]

We have had to submit a budget figure to the South Wales Area for financial support during next year, based on current expenditure. Details as follows:

+ Pre walk expenses			£150
++ Publication – Envelopes and stamps			200
Meetings -	Hire of hall	£25	
	Food for AGM	55	
		-----	80
Administration	Printing & postage	£50	
	Internet	40	
	Petrol	15	
	Stationery	15	
		-----	120
Others	Ruperra Conservation Trust	£25	
	Welsh Air Ambulance	50	
		-----	75

			625
	Less income from R.A. Holidays		120

	Budget figure submitted		£505

Notes. + Only minimal amounts now being claimed
 ++ Toner and stamps purchased in 2011/2012 will be sufficient for much of this forthcoming year.

We received a loan from the Area a/c for £365 during this year to purchase a supply of Toner: this is repayable in 2012/2013. Provision has been made for this in our accounts.

- 4.2.1. Brian reported a quiet year having received a due allocation from Area. £30 was received from Area for the Coastal Path walk. Repayment for expenses last year was received. We received £60 from Ramblers Holidays.
- 4.2.2. The Area have a new Treasurer (Gwyn Smith).
- 4.2.3. We have a balance of £1444.11 in the bank, and at the end of the year expect to have about £1440 in hand (compared to last year's £1033). The budget was smaller this year. Stamps were purchased in excess of what was needed in anticipation of a price rise: no more are needed this year. Ken noted that, although we are expecting £1440 in the account at the end of the year, £365 has to go back to Area for next year to pay back an amount received in the first half of our budget allowance for this year for toner for the printer.
- 4.2.4. Adrian said that Area have a new Treasurer who will be looking at the rules and the amount in our reserves to make sure that we comply with our charitable aims. A new computer program will highlight any excesses in reserves. Nevertheless, Adrian did not think that we would be affected.

4.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek Humble

- 4.3.1. There have been a number of applications for footpath alterations during spring and summer, mostly concerning the Wales Coastal Path route which is now completed.
- 4.3.2. The rest have been minor diversions that have no great impact on our local path network, and one informal application for a diversion at Coedkernew which would entail a lengthy tramp round three sides of a field to improve privacy for the owner of an extended property.
- 4.3.3. Our objection to this proposal has hopefully prevented a full application.
- 4.3.4. Work is ongoing by Newport City Council and the volunteer group to provide more leafleted walks in the area and to further improve the routes already in use by provision of steps, kissing gates and boardwalks.
- 4.3.5. The wet summer has seen an unprecedented rise in vegetation growth rates, so path clearance has been 'never ending'.
- 4.3.6. Following the ruination of a path through Park Wood by horses, the Forestry Commission has allowed NCC to form a new route a few metres away which walkers can use more easily.
- 4.3.7. South Gwent Ramblers in association with NCC had the highest number of walkers in the country for any inaugural Welsh Coastal Path walk on the weekend of 6th May. About 300 people completed the walk and photographs show well in excess of 250 at the opening talk given by John Griffith AM, at the Transporter Bridge.
- 4.3.8. Newport CC is very active in maintaining footpaths.

4.4. *Rambles Officer* Dave Fereday

South Gwent Ramblers currently has a shortage of walks leaders. Dave therefore suggested that, in the forthcoming walks programme, we should provide one long walk per week and one medium and one short walk per month. The committee agreed to this.

4.5. *Membership Secretary* Val Clark was not present.

4.6. *Publicity Secretary* Fred Fee

Nothing much to report. Programmes and Newsletters were published and distributed on time - thanks to Dave for getting the walks programme data to me in good time. The web site was updated as necessary with the programme of walks and the events.

4.7. *Area* Adrian Sheehan

- 4.7.1. The annual budget submissions were sent to the Ramblers Association with some misgivings.
- 4.7.2. The Area Walk included three rambles: a strenuous 10 mile walk at a fast pace and walks of 8 and 4 miles.
- 4.7.3. Refreshments preceded a short AGM. Most of the discussion at the AGM was about flexigroups. There were mixed feelings about them in the Area. Gwyn said that there would be a small administrative overhead but no costs to Area since the Ramblers Association would pay for them. Adrian thought that flexigroups groups should be administered by Area but it was not clear how. Fred noted that members of flexigroups need not be members of the Ramblers Association. However, such groups would need walks leaders and at least they should be members of the Ramblers Association so that they could be covered by appropriate insurance.
- 4.7.4. The electronic newsletter produced by Area requires a report from each group.

4.7.5. Ken asked if Gwyn was to stay and Adrian confirmed that he was to stay. In addition Adrian said that new treasurers would be expected to use Excel. Ken then asked if we should have Excel training. Adrian said that the matter would be raised at the Area AGM.

5. *South Gwent Ramblers AGM*

Ken noted that the hall had been booked and a leader was needed for the walk. Dave volunteered. Ken also noted and Brian Williams will be retiring from the committee and thanked him for all his work over many years.

6. *Events*

6.1. Okehampton, Skittles and Boules were well supported but our coach trips were, for the first time ever, poorly attended. Dartmouth was an excellent day and I'm sure that Bosherton will be too. We do, however, need to give next year's trips a lot of thought. Weymouth was well supported and coach travel seems to be the way for the future. Crianlarich was also a success but only attracted the more hardy of our members. Our barbecue, despite the awful weather, went well. Our helpers really appreciated the gazebos. Many thanks to all who helped.

6.2. The skittles has been booked, the Christmas dinner has been booked, and the Christmas walks are in hand. Notification was given to members for a return to Okehampton in February 2013.

6.3. Two dates for you. The Greater Gwent walk is on September 16 and the Greater Gwent AGM is on 4 November.

7. *AOB*

Brian Williams noted that we need to repaint the bench. Brian Turner said that he would be prepared to repaint bench and also noted that the ground in front of the bench has fallen away so that the footing there is to low.

8. *Next committee meeting* To be decided at the AGM, but probably in January.

SOUTH GWENT RAMBLERS STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2011 - 2012

Opening Balance - 1st. October 2011 £ 1,033 – 69

Income.

Christmas Dinner	379 – 50
R.A. Holiday advertisement	120 – 00
Allocation from Area	865 – 00
Coach ramble - Dartmouth	450 – 00
Coach ramble - Bosherton	440 – 00
Area walk & refreshments	71 85
Area payment re coastal path	30 - 00
Area special payment –	
Re: toner (re payable)	365 - 00
Bank interest	1 – 35

2722 – 70

Expenditure

Christmas Dinner	379 – 50
Coach ramble - Dartmouth	450 - 00
Coach ramble - Bosherton	440 – 00
Parc Golf Club – deposit for	
Christmas Dinner. Re 2012	100 – 00
R.A. Objectives	
Access	25 – 00
Promote walking	865 – 09
Prewalking	52 – 00

2311 – 59

Excess of Income over Expenditure

411 – 11.

Closing Balance 30th. September 2012

£ 1,444 – 80.

B. Williams Esq.

T.A.L.Booth Esq.

Treasurer

B. Williams
16/10/12

Auditor. Dated:

T.A.L. Booth 16/10/2012