



South Gwent Ramblers



Minutes of the Committee meeting held on
24 January 2013 at Newport Civic Centre

Members present - Roger Binding, Dawn Bishop, Val Clark, Phyllis Clayton, Fred Fee, Dave Fereday, Joan Lang, Tony Phelps, Ken Phillips, Ian reese, Liz Salmon, Brian Turner, Brian Williams.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Christine Burns and Derek Humble
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted
3. *Matters arising from the minutes* None other than as discussed below.
4. *Officers' reports*

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

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| 1 | SGR | Letter to R.A. re Mrs P Clayton | File |
| 2 | R.A. | Ramblers Cymru Winter Newsletter | Discuss & File |
| 3 | R.A. | RA Volunteer Newsletter | File |
| 4 | SGR | Letter to IOW Tours | File |
| 5 | SGR | Area Annual Report | File |
| 6 | SGR | Letter to Usk Scout Group | File |
| 7 | R.A. | Letter from Campaign Director | File |
| 8 | SGR | Invoice to Ramblers Holidays | File |
| 9 | SGR | Letter to Area Membership Secretary | Dawn |
| 10 | SGR | Letter to Area Secretary | File |
| 11 | SGR | Letter to Colin Wallace | File |
| 12 | SGR | Letter to Dawn Bishop | File |
| 13 | R.A. | Consultation Paper Constitutional Amendments | Discuss & File |
| 14 | G.G | Area Report | File |
| 15 | R.A. | National Access Forum | Discuss & File |
| 16 | R.A. | Promotional Films | Discuss & File |
| 17 | R.A. | New Website | Discuss & File |

4.1.1. Ken welcomed the new members of the committee who were present, namely Phyllis Clayton (Vice Chairman) and Joan Lang, Liz Salmon and Roger Binding (committee members).

4.1.2. *Re item 2* The date of the Great Wales Walk is from 4 May to 6 May. Dave noted the dates for a walk to be included in the next walks programme.

4.1.3. *Re item 2* Ken also said that the Ramblers Association reminded walks leaders to report incidents, such as accidents which happen on walks, on a form.

4.1.4. *Re item 2* The Ramblers Association used the newsletter to thank all volunteers.

4.1.5. *Re item 14* Ken noted that Greater Gwent Area has a web site and that the Area Annual Report was now on the site. Fred is to send an email to members of the committee giving the web address of the site.

4.2. *Treasurer* Ken Phillips

- 4.2.1. We had £1444.80 in our account at the 30th September 2012 and now we have £1256.80 not a very good start for your new treasurer.
- 4.2.2. Our budget application has been accepted by the RA and we have received our 1st Quarter payment of £130. the remaining quarters will be £375. Ramblers Holidays have continued to support us and we received a £60 cheque for our advert in the Newsletter. We have repaid our loan to Area of £365 and also paid out £88 in respect of the costs of our AGM. We have continued our support of Ruperra and renewed our membership of £25.
- 4.2.3. We need to change our bank mandate. Ken propose that the new cheque signatories be Ken Phillips, Fred Fee and Phyllis Clayton. Fred and Ken are existing signatories and Phyllis will replace Brian.
- 4.2.4. Thanks to Koiran for her work providing the food at the AGM.
- 4.2.5. Thanks to Brian Turner for bringing the South Gwent Ramblers seat at Ruperra back into good order. Brian promised to maintain the seat up to standard in future.
- 4.2.6. Once again, a plea for members to submit expenses for pre-walking. If you don't use it, you may lose it.

4.3. *Footpaths Officer* Fred read the report from Derek Humble

There has only been one planning application concerning footpaths, at Caerlicken Farm, Langstone, since the AGM, and one blocked path has been reported.

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.

4.4. *Rambles Officer* Dave Fereday

- 4.4.1. Dave said that he will be trawling for walks for the next programme of walks soon.
- 4.4.2. He also mooted a plan for simultaneous medium and long walks starting from the same point and covering much the same ground to be held together, such as the walks for 10 February in the current programme. Anyone attending such walks can leave the decision as to which they wish to enjoy until they see the lay of the land. The meeting broadly agreed with the proposal.

4.5. *Membership Secretary* Dawn Bishop

Our membership at the end of last year was 158 and this year it is down to 150.

There are number of factors which can account for the decrease in membership, the economic situation being a primary cause. We have lost quite a few of our long standing members due to age, illness and some moving out of our area.

The internet is fast becoming our main source of new members and the sooner we sort out our website the better it will be for us.

We must make every effort to make new members welcome and I ask all walks leaders and established members to help in doing so especially in their first few walks with the group.

4.6. *Publicity Secretary* Fred Fee

Fred set out and distributed the walks programmes and newsletters.

4.7. *IT Officer's report* Fred Fee

Keith still has not managed to sort out his problems with the hard drive containing the old web site or with getting his password from Nominet. I have asked him to try to deal directly with the

ISP holding the name of the web site and given him, by email, the information that he needs to give to the name provider so that the name provider can change ownership to me.

5. *Events calendar*

- 5.1. *Okehampton* 17 are now booked to go. The walks programme is complete. Archery is booked. Table tennis, ten pin bowling & tennis will be arranged when we get there.
- 5.2. *Skittles* Jen Wagenaar has booked for Thursday 21 March and Thursday 14 November at Whiteheads and will arrange the refreshments. Ken will be absent at the time of the first skittles evening: Phyllis agreed to organise the first match.
- 5.3. A *Scotland* trip is not on for this year since Dave has prior commitments. However, Ian noted that John Smith is thinking of going to Skye in the Summer.
- 5.4. The previously mooted coach trip to Church Stretton will now be replaced with one to *Ironbridge* on Sunday 14 July, since Church Stretton has insufficient of interest for short walkers and non-walkers for a day. Ian will organise a long walk and Ken a short walk. Ian and Tony with liaise. Tony will organise a medium walk assisted by Dave. Ken said that he would look into booking the coach and a meal.
- 5.5. *Boules* will be on Thursday 18 July, organised by Dave and scored by Liz. Ken will help by compiling the team and score sheets.
- 5.6. A tentative date of Sunday 11 August was set for the *Barbecue*. Derek will provide the walk and Doug and John will probably be the cooks for the day. Volunteers are needed to help with setting up the tables and the gazebo and to help put out the food.
- 5.7. Guernsey, Newquay and Croyde Bay were mooted at the november AGM together with further suggestions by Ian. In addition to Guernsey, loW Tours suggested Jersey to Ken when he contacted them. After some discussion, the committee decided on a trip to *Jersey* using loW Tours. The trip includes coach travel from Newport, the Fast cat to Jersey from Weymouth and four nights' DB&B accommodation at the Norfolk Lodge in Jersey, all for £239 per person. The suggested dates are Monday 7 October to Friday 11 October. Dawn has Jersey maps and information. Roger volunteered to come up with a walk on each of Tuesday and Thursday., possibly with the help of the hotel which advertises guided walks A guided trip round the island was suggested for the Wednesday. Details will be sorted out nearer the day.
- 5.8. Second Coach Trip to *Winchester* on 15 September. Ian will liaise with his friend Karen regarding the long and medium walk. Ken will liaise with Brian regarding the short walk. Ken will book the coach and find a place for our meal.
- 5.9. Thanks went to Ian for his work in presenting interesting walking venues.

6. *AOB* None

7. *Next committee meeting* on Thursday 6 June.