



Members present - Fred Fee, Dave Fereday, Joan Lang, Derek Humble, Ken Phillips, Brian Turner, Colin Wallace, Steve Atkins, Ivor Barclay.

1. *Apologies for absence* from Roger and Phyllis
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted
3. *Matters arising from the minutes of the last South Gwent Ramblers committee meeting*
4. *Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM*
 - 4.1. *Ken asked about the days on which the evening walks were held.* Dave said that the days would always be Thursdays to avoid clashing with Wednesday meetings of the Newport Local History Society : their meetings are were popular with South Gwent Ramblers members.
 - 4.2. *Ken reported that he and Fred attended a meeting of Newport CC's Newport Walks Festival committee* to find out what it was about. The event will take place in early autumn (probably 3 September) and feature walks centred on local schools. Fred may be doing a long walk for the festival.
 - 4.3. *Re appointment of Treasurer.* Roger's current position is that he wants to do the Treasurer's job but not shoulder the responsibility of handling money for trips and the like. He would like to give it a go with Ken to see how he takes to it.
 - 4.4. *Re appointment of Chairman and Vice Chairman.* Phyllis has resigned as Vice-Chairwoman and received a vote of thanks for her work last year. Ken's idea of a Chairman's main duty is to make sure things are done and to chase up.
5. *Events calendar*
 - 5.1. Ken is winding down his duties as Chairman and confirmed that he would not, by default, be in charge of organising events this year but will be readily available to give advice to members who may request it. A member will have to come forward to organise each event before it can go ahead. Ken will organise the transport this year.
 - 5.2. The proposed *Okehampton* trip will not take place due to lack of interest.
 - 5.3. A coach trip to *Stratford* will be organised by Joan for 5 or 12 June. Joan will lead the short walk, Ken the walking wounded walk and Dave the long walk. Dave will liaise with Ken so that Ken can organise bus timetable.
 - 5.4. A coach trip to *Welsh Botanical Gardens* will take place on 17 July. Discussion took place about whether to go straight there or not and where to go for the walk. Fred, Colin and Ted Clevely will organise the trip. The itinerary was not settled, but will probably involve a circular walk or walks from the Gardens and a possible outing for non-walkers.
 - 5.5. A week away to *Llandudno* will take place from 17 to 22 October at a cost of £195 including coach, food and accommodation. The venue was decided after considering the merits of Llangollen, since Llandudno provided better facilities for walkers and non-walkers alike. The question arose as to who would take charge of the non-walkers. Joan thought that the organiser could provide the non-walkers with a list of things to do. We need to confirm the the organiser and walks leaders. Ken will do the paperwork.

- 5.6. The *Barbecue* will be organised by Colin and Sue at Tintern for 7 August at £6 per head. They will also provide the food and other accoutrements, but will ask for volunteer cooks and helpers to set out the food. Colin will ask Charles and Shiela.
 - 5.7. Trips to *Llanelli, Pembrey Sands and the welsh Botanical Gardens were mooted*. The committee decided that the Botanical Gardens was the best of the three at the moment. The large gardens there can take 3-4 hours to peruse and there are opportunities for coastal walks. Trips to Pembrey Sands and Llanelli could be considered in the future.
 - 5.8. Roger will provide walks for both the *Area AGM* on 6 November (South Gwent Ramblers host) and the *South Gwent Ramblers AGM* on 20 november. We hope to hold both events at Usk Memorial Hall.
 - 5.9. The *Christmas Dinner*: Ken asked if we wished to continue with the format in view of the smaller number attending this year. The committee was unanimous in wanting to continue with the event. Joan and Fred wanted singing to return as a feature of the Dinner. Fred, Joan and Colin will organise (censor?) the songs.
6. *AOB*
- 6.1. Steve rang Ken saying that he could not longer lead the walk on 7 February. Brian volunteered to lead instead.
 - 6.2. Colin noted that the Welsh Council were meeting on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 April at the University of Wales, Lampeter. Food, accommodation and travel can be claimed.
 - 6.3. Ken reminded the committee of money that can be paid to the Group from Ramblers Holidays each time a member goes on one of their holidays. You register with the scheme, inform Ramblers Holidays of the Group's when you book a holiday and the money is credited to the Group after you have taken the holiday. South Gwent Ramblers are due £60 as a result of Peter and Helen Elliott taking a holiday.
7. *Next committee meeting* on Thursday 3 March