



South Gwent Ramblers

Minutes of the Committee meeting held on
3 March 2016 at Newport Civic Centre



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

1. *Apologies for absence* from Roger Binding
2. *Minutes of last meeting* were adopted with para 4.1 now reading "Dave said that evening walks are every other Wednesday to avoid clashing with meetings of the Newport Local History Society: their meetings are popular with members".
3. *Matters arising from the minutes* None
4. *Officers' reports*
 - 4.1. *Secretary* Colin Wallace
 - 4.1.1. Colin has now booked the Memorial Hall in Usk for the the Greater Gwent Area AGM and our Group AGM.
 - 4.1.2. The Tea Room at Tintern Station has been selected for the Barbecue and Colin has details of who to contact for booking.
 - 4.2. *Treasurer* Ken Phillips
 - 4.2.1. Ken gave an account of the budget changes.
 - 4.2.2. Ken contacted the Walking Partnership of Ramblers Worldwide Holidays. He brought to their attention that Dave had booked, cancelled and rebooked a holiday and yet we had not received money for the booking being fulfilled. RWH admitted making an error and will pay on the next due date. Peter and Helen has been on a long haul holiday: we received £80 as a result due to arrive in April.
 - 4.3. *Footpaths Officer* Derek Humble
 - 4.3.1. A planning application was made for the siting of a gypsy pitch and related matters on Bulmore Road, Caerleon directly alongside the Usk Valley Way. We were not consulted by NCC nor were any neighbouring landowners, and only through the efforts of a person 'keeping an eye out for untoward developments in the area', did several people object. On phoning the planning officer about the lack of communication to interested parties, I was told it was none of my business. Fortunately, a few days later the decision was made to refuse this development.
 - 4.3.2. A request has been forwarded to me for support of action to reinstate an old footpath to the Wales Coast Path at Peterstone. This looks like a worthwhile cause so I intend to visit the route with some local people who have previously used it. A farmer is causing obstructions on the line of the path including an unofficial traveller site.
 - 4.3.3. A Modification Order has been confirmed at the bottom of Belmont Hill, which includes a section of footpath not previously formally recorded.
 - 4.3.4. The Modification Order to include a bridleway to be added to a path at the Old Mill, Langstone, which I have been objecting to for some years, was allowed and then subsequently refused on the grounds of there not being a scale on the map used for the Order. There is now to be a public enquiry in October which I will probably attend. I have spoken to Ramblers head office for advice on what I feared may be tenuous grounds for

refusal but was told that my case could be important as the enquiry evidence seems to be finely balanced.

4.3.5. NCC no longer has a Rights of Way Officer and only two part-time Countryside Rangers, but nonetheless the volunteer team is still being supported and work continues at a rate.

4.4. *Rambles Officer* Dave Fereday has just circulated a request for walks and hopes to get the programme of walks ready in a fortnight.

4.5. *Membership Secretary* Joan Lang

4.5.1. Membership is 137 including Steve Williams.

4.5.2. We have lost some long-standing members recently. John Kingdom finally lost his battle with cancer, having amazed us by still walking when enduring Chemo-therapy. Margaret Woodward left Newport to be closer to her family. Ken said that Val Clark is back in hospital.

4.5.3. Ivor said that Newport Link had brought some new members to a Monmouth Group.

4.5.4. Ivor also reported that a firm "Fabian 4" is likely provide online booking for Newport CC's "Walk the Port" day of walks in September.

4.6. *Publicity Secretary* Fred Fee had nothing to report.

4.7. *IT Officer* Fred Fee had nothing to report.

4.8. *Area Secretary* Adrian Sheehan

4.8.1. Adrian was absent but had indicated that he had nothing to report.

4.8.2. Ivor said that he would be attending the next Area meeting

5. *Events calendar*

5.1. *Skittles* We are struggling for numbers with only 17 members currently booked. Fred will circulate the group to try to gee things up.

5.2. *Stratford coach trip - 12 June* Joan will lead a 4-mile walk along the river Isis. Joan, Dave and Ken are going to pre-walk and arrange details. A coach at £440 would cost £15 per head assuming 30 booked.

5.3. *Boules - 19 June* Dave had nothing to report but would be active soon.

5.4. *National Botanical Gardens - 17 July* Fred and Ted will pre-walk. The current plan is to look over the Pembey Sands area, then to the Gardens although plans remain flexible as yet.

5.5. *Barbecue - 7 August* Colin will phone to book. Ken phoned Doug and John who will act as honorary cooks. Colin and Sue will provide the food and accoutrements.

5.6. *Slimbridge* Ivor has not et looked into it. He will give them a call with dates on the September/October border in mind.

5.7. *Newport Walking Festival - 3 September* Fred reports that several 1- to 5-mile walks have been organised. Fred will lead a 9-mile moderate walk. Other walks of 15-, 21- and 24-miles are being contemplated. Fred and Ken are attending ongoing planning meetings for the event.

5.8. *Llandudno midweek coach trip - 3-7 October* Edwards Coaches run there own Llandudno trip and go to our favoured hotel but could not make the date. Ken is therefore staying with Isle of Wight coaches who can get us into the hotel for the 3rd. Joan will handle all organisation and Dave will do the long walks as long as he is available. Peter Elliott has offered to stand in if needed. He and Dave will keep in touch. 40 people are needed for this trip. The cost per person will be £200 including gratuities. Cheques of £25 to Joan are needed as a deposit.

5.9. *Area AGM - 6 November and SGR AGM - 20 November* Roger has volunteered a long walk for each of these events.

5.10. *Christmas dinner* Ken will organise

5.11. *Christmas walk and lunch* Fred will organise

6. *AOB*

6.1. Fred will circulate the details of John Kingdom's funeral as soon as they are known.

6.2. Ken announced that Roger may take over as treasurer after an "Apprenticeship". Ken and Roger are working out the details.

6.3. Ken will retire as Chairman at the end of this year. He sees the main thrust of the job as "making things happen" and is keen to find the future chairman.

7. *Next committee meeting* on Tuesday 5 July