



**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 24TH OCTOBER 2017 AT
NEWPORT CIVIC CENTRE**

Present

Colin Wallace, Acting Chairman
Sheila Holmes, Acting Secretary
Roger Binding, Treasurer
Joan Lang, Membership Secretary
Dave Fereday, Rambles Officer
Derek Humble, Footpath Officer
Fred Fee, I.T. Secretary
Adrian Sheehan, Area Representative
Charles Goodreid, Member

Apologies

Ivor Berkley
Julie Davies

1. Welcome

Colin opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

2. Minutes Of Last Meeting

Sub-section 4.2.1 – one typo error on line 2, the current allocation of funds should read **£1,388.30** and not £138,830.30.

3. Greater Gwent Area AGM hosted by Lower Wye Group

The 2017 Greater Gwent Ramblers Annual General Meeting, hosted by the Lower Wye will be held at St. Arvans Village Hall, St. Arvans, Chepstow NP16 6DN on 5th November 2017. A walk will depart at 10 am followed by a buffet lunch at 1 pm. The AGM will commence at 2 pm sharp.

4. Officers' Reports

4.1 Secretary's Report

Colin explained that at the SGR AGM under "Election of Officers" he would be putting himself forward as Chairman and that Sheila would be putting herself forward as Secretary.



4.2 Treasurer's Report

Roger explained that as at the 30th September 2017, SGR had a balance of £1,020.56 (after outstanding expenses this balance would stand at £864.26). Last year excess of income over expenditure totalled £20.00. A cheque for the hire of the Usk Hall, including a bond for £50.00 has yet to be paid. Providing no damage is incurred; the £50.00 bond will be refunded following the event.

Should SGR host an Area walk then Area should pay for expenses incurred. All in agreement.

4.3 Rambles Officer's Report

Dave distributed an email to all paid up members on Friday, 20th October, relating to the Winter Walks programme. To-date he has only received one response.

4.4 Footpath Officer's Report

- Derek explained that a planning application for retrospective change to a waste transfer station had been refused for Croescarneinion Farm near Bassaleg where there is a footpath around the farm.
- An application has been submitted from the Celtic Manor to install a double zipwire from the top of Catsash Road down to the driving range.
- A new Hilton Hotel is planned at the Coldra where a footpath goes between the A48 and A449 where it terminates.
- There are plans to improve the access to the Coastal Path at Lighthouse Inn and to form a Gateway with facilities for parking, a food kiosk and interpretation signs.
- Following the issue of signs closing the 25 woodland footpaths at Fox Hill, Rhiwderin larch tree felling a week ago, there has been an application seeking permission to carry out this operation.

Should you wish to discuss in more detail please contact Derek Humble direct.

4.5 Membership Secretary's Report

Joan stated that membership was down to 122 although there are 10 payments pending.

4.6 Publicity Officer's Report

Colin said that he had distributed information received by the Ramblers Association to local establishments.



4.7 I.T. Secretary's Report

No issues to report by Fred.

4.8 Area Representative's Report

- Adrian said that there were no major issues to report. The only substantive issue discussed at Area has been the annual budget submission, which would pose no problem as far as SGR are concerned.
- The Rambler's CEO, Vanessa Griffiths, has begun to distribute a regular CEO newsletter. Headings include:-
 - (1) **Countryside protection** – *please help us to ensure we have identified all our volunteers in this field.* As part of our current drive to increase mutual support for volunteers, we are updating our guidance for countryside protection volunteers. This guidance is current called "*The Walking Environment Officer Handbook*".
 - (2) **Group and area survey** – *please look out for an update later this month.* In June 2017, we shared the key findings from the survey undertaken. The intention of this survey was to help us to better understand area and group volunteer infrastructure needs and to improve the mutual support, which staff provide as a result.
 - (3) **Walk leader checklist and ICE card** – *please note that the updated forms are now available.* For copies of the waterproof ICE card to quickly establish any medical conditions and emergency contacts whilst out walking, please contact volunteersupport@zendesk.ramblers.com. If you would like digital copies, you can download them from the Walk Leader toolkit.
 - (4) **Sounding board for volunteering** – *please let us know if you would like to be involved.* You can formally put yourself forward to apply to be part of the volunteer sounding board. We are looking for up to 12 volunteers to undertake a variety of volunteering roles across Great Britain. For further information please contact Susie Corfield, Volunteering Manager via email Susie.corfield@ramblers.org.uk or via telephone 0207 663 8569.
 - (5) **Ramblers Cymru** – *thank you for helping us to get walkers voices heard in the access debate.* Thank everyone who joined our campaign. Over 2,400 people sent an e-letter to the Welsh Government backing our position.

Should you require more information on any of the above subjects please contact Adrian Sheehan direct. adrian.sheehan@btinternet.com



5. Calendar of Events

5.1 Past Events

5.1.1 Salisbury Day Trip 20th August 2017

A good day enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks were expressed to Joan, Fred and Dave for jointly organising the event.

5.1.2 Area AGM and Walk 17th September 2017

Two walks were organised on the day attended by 17 walkers in each group. Roger led the longer walk and Joan led the medium walk. Light refreshments were provided following the walks prior to the AGM taking place.

5.1.3 Newquay Trip 2nd October 2017

This trip was as per usual well organised and enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks were extended to all who were involved in the general organisation e.g. leading the walks etc.

5.2 Future Events

5.2.1 Spring 2018 – Skittles

Following enquiries made by Charles Goodreid from the St. Julian's Inn, Caerleon Road, Newport NP18 1QA, it was proposed that this would be next year's venue in which to hold the annual skittles evening. This topic will be discussed in more detail at the AGM on 19th November. A fixed menu would be offered at a cost of £5.00 per head, which would include the use of the skittles hall, which we have been informed, would hold up to 50 people comfortably and finger buffet.

5.2.2 SGR AGM and Walk 19th November 2017

This event will take place at Usk Hall, Maryport Street South, Usk NP15 1AD.

Adrian Sheehan has kindly volunteered to lead a 5-mile local walk departing the hall at 10:30 am. Light refreshments will be available for those staying for the AGM, which will start at 2 pm.

5.2.3 SGR Annual Christmas Dinner

This event will take place at the Newport Golf Club, Great Oak, Rogerstone, Newport NP10 9FX on Tuesday, 12th December. Seven individuals have booked to-date. Please contact Fred Fee for further information.



5.2.4 SGR Christmas Walk & Lunch

This event will take place at The Holly Bush Pub, Draethen, Newport NP10 8GB on Thursday, 28th December. Fred is awaiting feedback on price and menu choices. Fred is to visit the establishment in due course.

6. **Any Other Business**

A discussion took place around next year's events. A decision was made that this should be discussed in more detail at the AGM in November.

Joan confirmed that she had already secured places for next year's mid-week trip to The Royal Hotel, Scarborough, 1st to 5th October 2018. Further details will be released in due course. Once again, this will be discussed at the AGM.

7. **Who is going to act as Chairman**

Colin Wallace.

8. **Date, Time & Location of Next Meeting**

To be discussed and arranged at the AGM.

END OF REPORT