



**MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
TUESDAY, 16 JANUARY 2018 AT 19:00 HRS
NEWPORT CIVIC CENTRE**

Present

**Colin Wallace, Chairman
Sheila Holmes, Secretary
Roger Binding, Treasurer
Joan Lang, Membership Secretary
Derek Humble, Footpath Officer
Fred Fee, I.T. Officer
Charles Goodreid, Committee Member**

Apologies

**Dave Fereday, Rambles Officer
Adrian Sheehan, Area Representative
Jan Waagener, Committee Member
Ivor Barclay, Committee Member
Julie Davies, Committee Member**

1. Welcome

Colin opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the first meeting of 2018 and wished everyone a belated Happy New Year.

2. Minutes of Last Meeting (24 October 2017)

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. Actions arising from AGM (19 November 2017)

Actions arising from the AGM to be discussed under Item 5 - Calendar of Events.

4. Officers' Reports

4.1 Chairman's Report

Colin confirmed that he has been chasing Paul (Manager of Usk Memorial Hall) in an attempt to retrieve the £50 bond that we had to pay in the event of any damage to the premises following the AGM in November 2017.

As far as Colin is aware, there were no issues when we left but despite sending emails and leaving telephone messages, he is still waiting for a reply.

Sheila offered to write to Paul requesting the return of the bond.

Colin explained he will be out of the country from 20 January to 5 April (inclusive) but will chase this up again beforehand.

4.2 Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

4.3 Treasurer's Report

The treasurer said that our Unity Trust account stands at a very healthy £1,566.64 after receipt of the first half of the funding from the Greater Gwent Area.

4.4 Ramblers Officer's Report

Nothing to report.

4.5 Footpath Officer's Report

The only activity regarding footpath matters since the last committee meeting is the proposal to extinguish a cul de sac path destined to be part of the gypsy site at Hartridge Farm Road. This was previously reported at the Annual General meeting in November 2017.

Newport City Council has given us notice of its intention to review the Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) by sending an initial consultation document, as we are statutory consultees for Public Path Orders. Derek will report on any progress in this matter in future meetings.

4.6 Membership Secretary's Report

As at the end of December 2017, there were 120 paid up members. Six people pending.

4.7 Area Representative's Report

Adrian Sheehan sent an email dated 15 January, entitled Greater Gwent Ramblers Committee meeting to be held on 24 January, at Newport Civic Centre starting at 7 pm. He will issue a formal agenda shortly. Items to be included are:

- Catherine Morgan – Area Support Officer for Wales Area Report for Ramblers.
- Dates/Venues for Area Ramble and AGM.
- Timetable for Budgeting.
- 2017 AGM Draft Minutes.

4.8 I.T. Officer's Report

Fred explained he has been experiencing problems uploading the walks programme onto the SGR website due to incompatibility of the new software. It was suggested he refrains from entering further information for the present time. Roger recommended that Fred attend the Area AGM meeting on 24 January to escalate the matter to see if other groups have been experiencing similar problems and to try to find a solution to the problem.

5. **Calendar of Events**

5.1 Future Events (Items 5.1.1 to 5.1.9 (inclusive) were raised at the AGM)

5.1.1 2018 Donations: Jan Waagener proposed we should consider raising the donation made to the Wales Air Ambulance from £50 to £100. *Proposal accepted.*

Roger proposed an increase in donations to the Ruperra Trust to £37. *Proposal accepted.*

5.1.2 Walk Etiquette: Peter Elliott suggested the walk leader should give pre-walk guidance on walk etiquette. The walk leader when reaching, for example, a junction should always wait until they can see the back marker whom, it was proposed, should be wearing a high Vis vest.

Following a discussion, it was suggested that for larger groups of walkers there should be an intermediary as well as a leader and back marker. This should eliminate a gap developing between the front and rear of the group. It was also suggested that the slower walkers should be encouraged to walk up front with the leader thus obligating the leader to walk at their pace.

5.1.3 2018 Skittles Venue: To be held at the St. Julian's Inn, Caerleon Road, Newport on either Thursday, 8th or 15th March. *Charles to make contact with the proprietor to check availability and report to Fred with the details.*

5.1.4 2018 Mid-Week Trip: 1st to 5th October stopping at The Royal Hotel, Scarborough. A £25 deposit will be required by the end of January 2018.

Fred sent out an email on the 15th January, reminding those who are interested to pay the deposit to Joan as soon as possible. Currently 46 individuals have shown an interest. Total cost of the trip is £255 per person.

5.1.5 2019 Mid-Week Trip Suggestions: It was proposed that suggestions for the 2019 mid-week trip be submitted to Joan Lang so that they can be discussed in more depth at the quarterly committee meetings held during 2018. *To be discussed in more detail later in the year.*

5.1.6 Swanage Day Trip: Sunday, 10 June 2018, organised by Roger Binding. *The walk should be no longer than 8-9 miles. The towns of Corfe and Norton were discussed. The Royal Chase, Shaftesbury is the suggested venue for the carvery on-route home at £11.50 per head. Roger will liaise with the proprietor to see if he can bring this price down due to the number of walkers attending.*

5.1.7 Annual BBQ: Sunday, 5 August, usual venue in Tintern and organised by Colin Wallace and Sue Shea assisted by Steve & Ceri.

5.1.8 Lynton & Lynmouth Day Trip: Sunday, 12th August, organised jointly by Paul Mellor and Joan Lang. The walks should be no longer than 8 miles. Joan will organise the coach. Paul to organise the walking route(s) and a place to eat. *Colin to contact Gary to ensure that this information is passed on to Paul.*

5.1.9 2019 Day Trip Suggestions: St. David's and the River Thames were put forward for consideration by the committee. *To be discussed in more detail later in the year.*

6. Any Other Business

- 6.1 It would benefit the committee members if, one week prior to each committee meeting, the agenda could be emailed to them.
- 6.2 Julie Davies expressed a wish to stand down as a member of the committee.
- 6.3 In future, people turning up incorrectly dressed can be stopped from doing a walk by the walk leader.

7. Date, Time & Location of Next Meeting

Tuesday, 17th April, 7 pm at Newport Civic Centre.

END OF REPORT