



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 15th July 2026
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

Mike Wilkin
Lesley Wilkin
Linda Lister
Kate McCormack
Karen Howes
Bob Ward
Nicky Ward

Signed as a true and accurate
record:

.....
Mike Wilkin – Chairman

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Date

Apologies

Dorothy Webley

1. Committee were welcomed by MW and thanks conveyed for Officers Reports.

2. Matters Arising from April Meeting

KH mentioned the following matters from our April meeting:

- The Charity Walk was undertaken by MW & LW, very successfully. Raised £1331.
- RB is now mobile and doing some walks, building up his fitness again following the accident.
- The grid ref error on the Ramblers Programme causing a walker to go to the wrong start point has not been repeated.
- River Dart Trip took place today. 11 attended.
- JMHT Anniversary Day, very successful. It was suggested this be repeated annually, using interest on JMHT funds. All agreed, but a different location/walk, possibly Cockington/Churston.
- 2027 Holiday. BW will advise ref his investigations but has narrowed down the options.
- Walkers with caring needs. Following another issue of concern, it was felt we should be robust about allowing attendance but all agreed it could be very difficult getting that message across, particularly as Ramblers do support wellbeing and enabling. We agreed attendance must not be to the detriment of other walkers, ie a carer provided.

Minutes of the April meeting were duly agreed and signed off by MW.

3. Reports

Officers were asked if they had any queries or issues to share with Committee.

LL – Advised we are no longer sponsored by Ramble Worldwide for their ad in our paper programme. We will, therefore, remove the ad and the need for colour no longer exists. All accounts are healthy, the saving on website fee ensures our books balance. We should look to spend the JMHT money, or interest at least, for the benefit of as many members as possible. An annual celebration of the opening of the trail was agreed.



KMcC – The Boat Trip was well organised and a lovely day, particularly the commentary and walk to Dartmouth Castle. Attendance could have been better. KMcC is investigating ideas for next year and mooted 'A Kick up the Arts', if Committee felt the title wasn't inappropriate. It was agreed it wasn't a problem and KMcC will pursue. The Guard House at Berry Head was also a consideration for a walk and meal.

KMcC asked if BW would be able to do a flyer for the forthcoming visit to the Otter Sanctuary. He agreed, date has been changed to Friday 25th September.

NW - It was noted that NW's Walks Co-ordinator Report was missing from the final papers. Here it is:

Walks Coordinator Report July 2026

Will be asking for walks at start of September.

Have observed that it's very obvious on the website when a walk is cancelled.

Took the Data Protection Training.

NW asked that preferred names be added by individuals on the walks programme, she cannot access that part. BW has changed his, MW to do likewise. KH wondered if giving wider access to cancellations might be a good idea in view of upcoming holidays NW & BW have. That was agreed, putting on 'Headlines' wasn't sufficient, it has to be a banner and very clear on the programme and Facebook as well, especially if short notice.

Some discussion followed on the location of short walks, ie Cotehele / Bramford Speke. LL and KMcC would not drive that far for a short walk, should they be 'no more than an hour'. KH queried 'from where?', as we all live in different locations and being 'South Devon Ramblers' not Torbay Ramblers we could have members around S. Devon, albeit not as many. It was agreed that NW will add this request when sending the 'submit your walks please' email, for OSE and Tea Shop walks only.

KH – Advised concern over leading her 1st October walk. BW is on holiday so would not be able to cover. KH will try to recce with HB ready by September. If not, another walk of similar distance (?RB) will have to be found from Cornwood.

KH will still go to the Peaks, doing shorter walks or sightseeing in Sheffield, and has offered to jointly lead one with Gail J.

KH advised that the SH have created a leader's badge at minimal cost and would we perhaps do similar next year, to value our leaders? The idea was dismissed.

DP Training - Those required to, have completed the online module. DW has confirmed completion.

4. Area Update

MW had little to update on, other than the plan to put Area into abeyance will go ahead. He awaits further information regarding the new structure and the impact on Devon groups.

There is to be an Area Members Day, this year hosted by South Hams Ramblers and held at the Station Hotel (Café), South Brent, where there is a large rear room. They require numbers in advance. MW will put the invite on FB and distribute on email. There will be walks before the meeting and an informal quiz afterwards. MW, LW & KH agreed to attend and hopefully many others. **Saturday 17th October** 10.30.



5. Mailchimp Update

MW updated on progress, i.e. due to restrictions we will move to another facility. The planned migration to Mailerlite has stalled as they have introduced restrictions on the free plan. MW has found another, Sender.net, and is working that. KH thought Mailchimp was clunky at the best of times and welcomed a change. The data will transfer in bulk. No addresses will be required. Email limit is more than adequate for our purposes.

6. Holidays 2026 / 2027

The Peaks - BW confirmed majority of payments received, 4 outstanding of 32 passengers. He is planning 3 walks a day and asking for leaders. MW & LW offered, likewise LL. KH to lead one short walk jointly with GJ.

2027 - BW has been exploring Spain, Portugal, Cinque Terre, Bavaria, Austria.

Considerations: Flight times, departure/arrival, walk difficulty, 3 & 5 to ensure available to all, terrain, airline, Ryan Air require online boarding passes only. Cost. Desirability of location.

This makes for a complicated set of parameters and he has narrowed it down to: Easyjet flights from Bristol with an early departure from Torbay. Top of the list currently is 'Summer in Bavaria', offering; something different, scenic, variety of walks, manageable flight times, transfers and good accommodation. The cost is around £1850. Available to view on Ramble Worldwide. Walks could be tailored to suit needs of the group. LL felt for couples this cost would be prohibitive, but it was agreed an organised holiday including transfers, coach, half-board and guided walks was unlikely to be found cheaper. BW was thanked for his endeavours and he will collate a package, in time for presentation at the AGM. Some discussion followed over whether we continue to offer alternate domestic then European holidays. Take up for 2027 could dictate that.

8. AOB

KH reminded all of the **AGM** and the need to plan. Requests are often received to 'speak to the group' but this generally meant a fundraising request and we do not want members to feel obliged. Also, it was agreed it should be light-hearted, something members would enjoy and a break from the formal proceedings.

A musical interlude was suggested and agreed. LL will approach Mike O'D in the first instance for a short 'Fishermen's Friends' type of offering, 15 mins max, to start during the break.

BW reminded all of his trip in October so the next meeting will be scheduled upon his return. Timescale is short for the Agenda, accounts/ slides etc. but Weds 21st October was agreed. ***Nb Now booked.***

Church Visits – BW and KH have received notification of Churches welcoming walkers, possibly an initiative from Churches England to encourage visitors/attendance. One in particular offering 'tea & cakes' in Galmpton, the other, Marldon Church, offering toilets and shade/shelter. BW will add the latter to the JMHT pdf for that section.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Amended to Wednesday 21st October. Please note Weds 13th January also booked, can be pushed forward but KH unable to attend.

Meeting concluded at 8.20pm