



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 8th April 2026
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

Mike Wilkin
Lesley Wilkin
Dorothy Webley
Nicky Ward
Bob Ward
Linda Lister
Kate McCormack
Hilary Bick
Karen Howes

Signed as a true and accurate record:

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Mike Wilkin – Chairman

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Date

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

The actual start time of this meeting was raised, it had moved sometime ago to convene at 6, for a 6.30 start but attendees were meeting for 6pm. It was agreed to fix at 6.30 in future, convene any time after 6pm and start when all present.

2. Matters Arising from January Meeting

KH confirmed all pending matters had been carried forward to the current agenda. The Minutes were, therefore, agreed and signed by MW.

3. Reports - Officers were asked by the Chairman if they had any queries or issues to raise at this point from their reports, to share with the Committee.

MW – i) Elaborated on his report to explain the planned involvement in two Charity walks, due to the support given to us recently. The Tavistock 11 Tors Walk would take place on Saturday 19th September. It will be promoted on our FB page in due course. There is a requirement to book a time slot. MW agreed with the suggestion that a 'team start' would be best so he would suggest 10am, Princetown. There is a choice of walk distance. Would cash be accepted? MW thought yes.

ii) Gemma Twitchen, from Ramblers had been contacted by a walker who turned up at the wrong place recently, using the Ramblers website for start point. Discussion ensued and it transpires several of the walks at that time were jumbled. The error seems to be with Ramblers, not SDR and they are investigating. It has now been rectified. Clearly when we are all using the one site such an error would be quickly highlighted but our own SDR website and hard copy programme were both correct.

LL – A quiet time, no money to be collected, figures as provided.

DW – Numbers on walks are down. Cancellations were due to poor winter weather. Over all a reduction in membership, possibly influenced by economic climate but older members not



able to walk and not renewing. NB Two new members moving to Ipplepen, walked yesterday, hopefully they will move permanently to this group.

BW - i) Janet's Way, GC's planned access route at Berry Head, will not be progressing due to an issue with moving, or rerouting around, ancient stiles that are heritage listed.

-ii) Tim Spray, Devon Area, is compiling a Compendium of Named Footpaths. DW said there were National named routes in an old Ramblers Handbook, unlikely to be available now.

NW - Summer Programme is complete, being uploaded on website now. Will be sent to printers shortly and made available thereafter. We have 36 registered leaders (2 currently 'broken'). BW and RB between them are leading 21 walks. Thanks were given to NW for her hard work once again in creating the programme.

KMcC – Progressing well with social events. Awaiting confirmation from GJ on Dart River trip arrangements. BW assisting with flyers, Heathercombe 19th May, two walks on offer; TS's Art Walk also in May (1st). KM & LL are managing the Christmas Lunch, Livermead Cliff 11th December.

KH – Nothing to report other than foot/sciatic issue preventing walking currently. Arrangements in place to cover 23rd April in Tiverton, not leading then until 1st October. Everything crossed.

4. **Devon Area Update**

MW confirmed that two key figures were standing down and if not replaced, it is likely Area would go 'into abeyance' as had happened before. The actual role of Area was queried and MW gave an explanation but it varies across the Country. There is an AGM on 28th November when matters will be clarified.

5. **New Website**

MW confirmed all is going well. BW, NW, KH & LW attended a training session and no major problems arose. MW hopes it will go live on 27th April, before the old one expires, to allow for any teething troubles. Bookmarks on devices, smart phones and tablets will work for the main address, but to the walks page only will need to be refreshed.

6. **JMHT Anniversary Walks & Cream Tea**

Thursday 18th June, Berry Pomeroy. Initially organised by HB. Committee agreed the setting at Berry Pomeroy as very appropriate for the trail.

Long walkers to park and start at Berry Pomeroy Church, short walkers from the car park by the Castle. It was agreed by most, after some discussion, that it would be free to SDR Members only. It would not, therefore, be advertised on FB and a flyer will be created. A cream tea is available. 30-40 people could be accommodated at the Café. HB to lead one walk, possibly BP another, to be confirmed. It will be advertised via Mailchimp nearer the time. Booking will be necessary. BW has details from HB for the flyer. RW has been asked to make a short speech ref JM and the Trail, if he is unable due to health issues, KP will be approached.



7. Holiday Updates – BW

- i) All running smoothly for Hayle. BW will provide itinerary when recces completed, he is going down shortly.
The first walk will be from the Jamaica Inn to Brown Willy on Bodmin Moor, around 6m. People can then travel on to the Riviere Sands Park. There will be three walks each day. 38 currently booked, mostly in the same caravan park. There will be a walk somewhere en route home on the Friday.
- ii) Peak District – 32 attending. BW to obtain fresh quote for coach as slightly less than anticipated. KH queried if Hotel still have room should there be late requests. BW advised yes, plenty of room up until departure.
- iii) 2027 – BW advised it is a 'work in progress'. He has researched flights to various destinations, Dordogne (probably Eurostar and coach), Umbria, Rome, The Algarve, Bavaria, Majorca, Madeira, Cinque Terre. He is also researching a DIY arrangement where we find a flight that suits, likely to be from Bristol, choose a destination and ask Ramblers to provide the walks and Hotel. Transfer and arrival times are important to ensure the journey is manageable for all. BW was thanked for his input into holidays and endeavouring to obtain the best deal for SDR.

8. A.O.B

KH - raised the matter of Charity Requests, having had several of late. One in particular was a man encountered on a walk recently and asked to contact her. He did not want funds, directly anyway, but help with organising a walk of the whole of the SWCP, co-ordinated on one day, on behalf of 'Walk for Life', breast cancer charity. He wanted advice, support and leaders from various groups around Devon, Dorset and Cornwall. Some discussion followed and it was thought it would be too much of an ask for any of our members, bearing in mind several have already walked the path and could in theory lead. It was suggested KH tell him to approach the SWCP Association. **Done**.

Another request from 'Walk for Sight', asking us to fund raise. For all the reasons already noted, i.e. our members pay to walk via their membership, a charity, such as Ramblers are, cannot pay for another Charity, it was felt we should not make any offer on this occasion, allowing members to choose their own favourite charity, outside of group activities.

BW – Some discussion affirming the decision last year, from Ramblers National about allowing walkers to go on organised holidays *when they have caring needs*. It was agreed that we will comply firmly with this and ask anyone not able to function independently on a holiday to either decline or bring a carer to ensure they are not alone and made the responsibility of other walkers or friends.

9. Date and time of next meeting.

KH has booked **Weds 8th July** and it was agreed only **Weds 14th October** was convenient for the next meeting. **NB This has been done**. Please note diaries accordingly.

Also- AGM – Churston Golf Club, Tuesday 10th November. 6pm for 6.30 start also booked.

Meeting Concluded at 8.25 pm