Minutes of the Committee Meeting Monday 4 October 2021 at The Carlton Hotel, CA Madison Lounge, 6.30 for 7pm start.

Welcome and apologies

KH and PJ sent apologies

1. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters arising (APs)

TS confirmed George C would be representing Devon Area at the AGM

BW summarised some of his findings when delving into the insurance cover provided by Ramblers. It was agreed to spend a few minutes on this in his report at the AGM to reinforce the importance of compliance when it comes to risk assessment.
JF pointed out that the Advice for Walk Leaders on the website needs checking to ensure it details the steps that need to be taken in order to comply with the requirements from Central.
BW: the insurance policy is difficult to locate on the Ramblers website. Suggested a link from our own website. JF: this should be a link to the pdf so that any updates are the responsibility of Central and we are not hosting outdated documents.
EE pointed out the route through Assemble to the document hub where forms such as Risk Assessment can be found.

ACTION POINTS JF: to get Mailchimp message out to invite members to the AGM
NW: to check Advice for Walk Leaders on the website
BW, JF: to set up a link on the SDR website to give access to the insurance policy

Dartmoor Way Festival has been highlighted on the winter programme.
ACTION POINT: EE to check and confirm dates

VR reported 34 had booked for the Xmas lunch. Balances due 19/11

Some parts of the AGM presentations would benefit from access to the internet to show, for example, how members can amend details on the Ramblers site regarding mailing permissions.
ACTION POINT: BW to check connectivity at the venue in advance of the AGM

All other APs were understood to have been addressed.

2. Walks programme 2021/22

NW brought along the paper copy of the winter programme which is now on the website. She has added notes about the booking system together with the responsibilities of walk leaders to complete and retain/forward to her for safekeeping a risk assessment.
The intention is to adhere to the booking system for a while longer and to highlight the advantages of the booking system, which is not universally popular, at the AGM.
The bus icon should emphasize the wider accessibility we are aiming for. A discussion ensued about the booking system. All were anxious that we do not deter walkers. The ruling is that while we prefer people to book in, walkers will not be turned away if they turn up spontaneously unless there is a number cap in place.
JF pointed out that the DNPA has published bye laws which include a limit on numbers but as this is set at 50 it is unlikely to cause concern.
The use of postcodes is to be discontinued unless the post code pinpoints exactly the start of the walk. There is too much margin for error in their use in country areas.
JF suggested the use of shading on the walks programme to enhance clarity.
NW was thanked for her hard work.

3. AGM Wednesday 10 November 2021

There was confusion over the number of the AGM. Chronologically it should be the 38th, argued TS, while DW, BW and NW felt convinced it should be the 39th seeing as the 40th anniversary was looming. DW confirmed the group dates back to 1982 with the first AGM held in 1983.
ACTION POINT: TS to confirm with NW before the paper programme goes to print.
NOTE: The following day this was cleared up by the forensic search done by DW. Apparently the 30th was used in both 2012 and 2013, hence 2021 is indeed the 39th.

EE confirmed the items on the AGM agenda making some changes and confirming input from members of the committee. In summary:

- BW convincingly explained why he felt it was helpful, particularly for new leaders, to have a readymade library of walks in the Rambler Routes being promoted by

Central. The way to get walks added to this site was outlined and even though it is not an easy process, it was agreed worthwhile if it encouraged people to step up and offer to lead a walk.

- In view of the fact that last year saw so many plans put on hold, it was agreed an update on the SWCP should be presented.

  ACTION POINTS: TS to ask Arthur C if he is willing to present on SWCP

  TS to list the objectives for the coming year and agree with EE before getting them to JF to incorporate into the presentation.

  TS to contact Duncan Birrell so BW and JF can check the technology available.

EE questioned the continued use of Wednesdays for the SWCP walks, fearing the impact on Thursday walks. After some discussion it was clarified that although numbers on Thursday walks were indeed down following the recent lengthy days out on SWCP, the number of members who actually turn up to do the SWCP s very low and not all of them are Thursday walkers. The choice of day was taken with the participants involved and mindful of the walks programme. NW is keenly aware of the trend in numbers and by raising the matter it was flagged as something to keep an eye on!

4. Date and venue for next meeting in January 2022

TS reminded committee of the kind offer from Gordon W to host a committee meeting. As the venue used for this meeting is more expensive than we usually pay, it was agreed to take up the offers made not only by Gordon but also by serving committee members, DW, VR, to host. Catering not needed.

AP: TS to approach GW with the preferred date of Wed 19 January 2022 and to confirm.