



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS

COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 10th JULY 2024
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

Eric Evans
Karen Howes
Val Rose
Nicky Ward
Dorothy Webley
Linda Lister
Kate McCormack
Paddy Jewry

Signed as a true and accurate record:

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Eric Evans – Chairman

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Date

Apologies: Hilary Bick, Bob Ward

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

2. Matters Arising from April Meeting

KH read matters highlighted.

1. Wellbeing Walks – Following MO'D's presentation KH has added a link to the Ramblers site for Wellbeing Walks, which shows the Berry Head Monday walks at the top, as well as others across the County. This link is in 3 places on the website and it was felt this was sufficient. NW and KH also provide information to enquirers who may wish to start with shorter, slower walks for whatever reasons. MO has not requested a spot at the AGM.
2. Berry Head Hotel – requested a higher profile but did pay the £25 sponsorship. KH has added some supportive text in the 'Links' on the website to encourage SWCP walkers to take refreshment there.
3. Manor Print quote – NW will explore but no certainty that it will be cheaper. We discussed the necessity of the paper programme and it was agreed it would continue as is popular with walkers and prospective new members.
4. Accounts in LL's Report – KH and LL have joined forces to ensure a clearer presentation in the Committee papers.
5. JMHT signage at Brixham – Undertaken by BW & NW.
6. Leaders Training – KH queried the need for a link on the website. NW advised that experienced leaders were not required to undertake the online familiarisation, but new leaders were given the link and offered support to ensure they are compliant.
7. Social Event Sharing – Torbay Ramblers. It was agreed that we could pursue this, KH/HB to pursue as and when things arise. TRC are having a music evening in the Autumn and KH will ask a contact if we should/could promote via our Social Committee and Website/FB.
8. Walkers Seat – Galmpton. EE has written and awaits reply. We would look to support with a donation when costs and feasibility is known. KH suggested if and when the new 'log' is agreed, we suggest TRC and SDR jointly support with a donation as the Torbay group stop there frequently.



No further matters to follow up. The Minutes were, therefore, considered read and approved and signed off by EE.

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

EE commented that KH had asked Committee to look at the website and he had done so. He noted the edits already undertaken. A discussion ensued about use of the website, alongside the FB page and what the aim of each was. The gallery was felt to be clumsy (Flickr) but welcome to non-FB users even so. KH had inherited the gallery and would not choose Flickr as a showcasing tool but JF had set it up as it was free and any more sophisticated option could be costly. FB was the 'go-to' for up-to-date walks reports and pictures. KH asked that posts be location tagged. Our page is for members but we should be mindful that it is accessed by others, Kate Ashbrook at Ramblers for instance and many people hoping to move, or come to Devon on holiday so it should represent what we do, where we go and showcase the area we live in, not just a 'group of walkers'. Followers continue to increase by 2-3 a week, many progress to full membership.

KM wondered if the 'News' on our website needed to show Committee minutes as it was not very welcoming to prospective members. KH had inherited this strategy from TS and BP but would remove minutes and keep them solely in the named tab. **DONE KH** will endeavour to put events and more interesting items on news regarding walks / weather. The News title is hard-coded so cannot be changed but we could perhaps ask if any cost implication in changing to 'Welcome to the SDR'.

LL – Asked if the text accompanying a spreadsheet was helpful. It was agreed to continue this as it gave a clear and welcome explanation of the figures.

4. **Funding for the bridge at Gatcombe Brook** - discussed. LL will seek more information and feed back to Committee but we agreed a max of £250 to match that given to the SWCP. It is not on the JMHT, but very close and a good use of monies.

5. **Holiday Update**

The Dales

In BW's absence NW confirmed half of the travellers have paid. Closing date is 31st July. Blakes did not require a deposit. BW is still intending to manage the trip but may not be able to lead the walks he had planned. He does have leaders lined up for the long walks and some, including GJ and KH for short walks. He will be meeting with them prior to the trip to go over the arrangements and provide maps.

Mini-Breaks

EE felt that BW had taken on all the planning and much of the leading for trips previously and this was a cause for concern. He would welcome any offer to organise one next year, particularly the Spring Break. KH mentioned that she and HB had discussed repeating some very successful trips HB ran for the TBRC in 2015/16. KH said she was unsure on the longer-term prognosis of her own health issues but would be willing to support all the admin necessary and help with recce's if at all possible. However, it would be a 'book your own' rather than caravan accommodation if Salisbury, but that could be researched. Stourgate House would be an excellent setting for a walk on the way



home too. KH to liaise with HB and feedback to committee later but details would need to be available for the AGM.

6. Social Committee Plans

The success of the Rosemoor trip was discussed although it was felt that PJ's canvassing her circle for attendees made the difference in filling the coach. This meant a certain amount of pressure due to the deposit arrangement, which was also discussed but more venues were requiring it post- Covid. LL felt that Social Committee should not 'pay up front' from their own funds and the Club should support events, even if it risked a loss sometimes.

The next event is the Rockfish visit, 11th September, a 6am start, 15 places. £25pp. To be promoted shortly. KH suggested as soon as possible and she offered to put the flyer out on the web and FB when available. It was confirmed that JM usually creates flyers, BW then prints and adds to 'Events' on the website. KH offered to promote social events on media if BW continued printing. A PDF was the format for website, a jpeg better for FB, but she could create a jpeg of a flyer if emailed or provided in hard copy.

The Christmas Lunch will be at the Livermead Cliff Hotel £30.50pp Friday 13th. Again, flyer to be made available in good time and promoted accordingly.

7. A.O.B

- i. VR mentioned the 100th Birthday event for Arthur Hart, a previous member who lives in a Torquay care home. Very few current members would remember Arthur but Val wanted as many as possible to be aware that his daughter was organising a gathering on Friday 9th August in St. Marychurch Square, 2pm. KH said she knew HB and several original members of the Torbay RC were aware, she would try to spread the word to others. It was not felt SDR could promote the event, other than by word of mouth.
- ii. KH had received a letter (with a stamp!) from Nathan Holmes regarding the JMHT, the America Lane section. The complaint was that it has recently been gravelled and now cyclists use it as well as walkers and dog walkers. Mr Holmes felt this was dangerous and signs should be in place to ban cyclists. He queried the decision and who owned the land, as owners of the trail he wanted SDR to intervene.

KH is aware that this work was part of the Torbay Council Local Plan and specifically Section 106 fund allocation (monies received from building developers to provide/improve local facilities). The land is owned by the Churston Barony and let to tenant farmers but overall responsibility lies with Torbay Council. It falls in National Landscape, then an AONB. Planning Application no. P/2011/0838 states *'The Senior Transport Planner has requested that £210,000 be spent on upgrading the cycle route from Bascombe Road via America Lane to Brixham*. This is, therefore, a cycle route, not solely a walking route and either way we have no influence on any section of the JMHT that crosses public land. KH to draft a response to Mr. Holmes out of courtesy. EE to sign off.

Date and Time of next meeting : Please note diaries

Wednesday 9th October - revert to 6.45 for 7pm start – AGM planning

Meeting Closed at 8.50pm – and England won !