



Signed as a true and accurate record of the
meeting

Eric Evans – Chairman SDRC

Date _____

South Devon Ramblers Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday 11th January 2023
at Churston Golf Club

Present

Eric Evans
Celia Broom
Dorothy Webley
Karen Howes
Bob Ward
Nicky Ward
Val Rose
Paddy Jewry
George Coles

Apologies

Janet Evans
(Julian Fisher to be removed from list in future)

1. Committee were welcomed by EE and apologies from JE conveyed. All present so the meeting commenced at 6.45pm.
2. KH ran through the matters arising from the last Committee Minutes:
 - Mileage confirmed at 45p a mile contrary to RA claim form.
 - Berry Head Access Path – GC to present later in meeting
 - Spring Break – Bob to confirm dates etc in this meeting
 - AGM – review and book for 2023 – done – provisionally 8/11/23
 - Risk Assessment form for OSE – to be discussed and uploaded if appropriate.
 - ICE cards – EE confirmed he has a laminated supply, to take to F/Aid and leaders course.
 - F/Aid Course planned for November at Paignton Yacht Club. PJ taking this forward.

3. Officer Reports – All noted - Officers thanked by EE for their input.

4. EE invited GC to discuss the issues he had tabled.

a) Berry Head Access Path

GC was invited to explain his proposal, what the plan involves and how the funding might be achieved to set it in motion.

It will begin with a feasibility study. The Ramblers Association is the accountable body. Approx £11,000 is required to begin the feasibility study. GC showed the Committee the planned route and explained the requirements, i.e. ramps, re-routing around stiles and signage. A Project Manager will be appointed. The path needs to be wheelchair, pushchair and mobility scooter accessible.

GC is to approach 'Awards for All' and is hopeful, but this may take up to 12 weeks. He needs public support in order to demonstrate this is a desired and worthwhile project. KH agreed to upload the study to our website, inviting members to email GC with their views and support. PJ suggested he approach the Monday Brixham Walkers, who do that walk every week.

GC wondered if our JMHT funds might be available in the sum of £1000. No decision made at this time. EE felt we had already contributed towards the SWCP in that area and wasn't sure the JMHT money was appropriate for this purpose.

It was suggested the Berry Head Hotel be approached. PJ offered to pass on email contacts for the Monday walk group (Mike O'D and Alasdair).

Missing benches at St. Mary's Bay were discussed. GC to write to Chris Linguard at Coast & Countryside Trust to see why they had been removed and how to go about replacing, if that were possible.

b) Dartmoor Way

GC advised that MO was leaving, and someone needed to take on management of this trail. GC also wanted to relinquish his role in the DW. No-one currently on the Committee felt able to take on this challenge and it was suggested that a direct approach to the RA be made so that a request could be circulated to all groups across Devon.

Some discussion ensued on the Two Moors Way and John Musgrave Heritage Trail. GC wondered if the JMHT should fall under Devon Area, albeit currently in abeyance. The Committee felt strongly that they wished to retain overseeing both the funding and the monitoring of the trail which was very successful to date. The TMW was very poor in places and required a great deal of work. Again, overseeing this could be offered via Ramblers central to all groups potentially using the trail.

c) Accounts

Finally, GC advised that he wished to speak with CB, Treasurer with regard to the accounts. He did not elaborate at this time, and we await further information. To be tabled for the April meeting.

5. AGM 2023

Review – 55 attendees on a dark, wet November evening was considered good. The room could have been warmer. Acoustics were better than last year but a mike still very necessary. The quality of graphics was not of usual standard due to the equipment. Bob will aim to address this next year if we have the same equipment at our disposal. It was agreed KH will book for 8th November 2023 if possible – *done* – same arrangement. *Note – They only have the Kingsley Room available that night. EE or BW to check if suitable sometime soon. It has been provisionally booked but deposit will not be paid until we are sure the room is big enough.*

6. South West Coast Path - Anniversary Events

EE had distributed the schedule of SWCP Anniversary Fundraising walks. Our local one was Weds 7th June. It was decided that the SDR would run their own walk, £10 each walker. It would start from Living Coasts in Torquay, to Brixham. Walkers could join/depart at any point. Club members to be advised in the Spring, date – Saturday 10th June. EE to write to SWCP and advise of our plan and see if any merchandise available. *Done*

7. Risk Assessment Form

JE has created a form, targeted at the OSE walk leaders particularly. It aims to meet the requirement for Risk Assessments without putting potential leaders off. It should also contain a reminder about maximum walk distance. KH has produced a PDF from Janet's document and it has now been uploaded to the website, under Walks/How to Lead a Walk, and also under Other Information, alongside the ICE card link. KH suggested a supply be available at Leaders Training, AGM and First Aid Training as many members would not wish to download and print. The RA have considered removing the need for Risk A's but until such time as that is clarified, we should complete them for every walk. In the event of an incident, they would be needed to submit to the RA.

8. BW advised that there are 22 bookings + 2 maybes for the Portugal trip. He is obtaining a quote from Blakes Coaches to Bristol Airport. A passport renewal reminder will be necessary to all travellers. There will be two walks each day, two leaders and free time with a trip to Porto by coach.

The mini-break to Wales, 8th – 12th May, shows good take up with 19; it is not necessary to confirm attendance until much nearer the time. BW and NW will recce the walks shortly but feel confident they will be able offer a range of walks and distances. EE thanked both for all the work they are doing for the Club.

9. Website & Mailchimp

KH advised that a meeting took place and a decision reached, to retain Mailchimp now that Julian has left Committee, but to share access. This has now been done, two-factor authentication removed so both KH and MW can log in. BW had two emails to distribute so this has been tested. KH found the system tricky to work but is sure familiarity will make it easier. DW will advise of new members and leavers as necessary. Two emails sent successfully on 13th Jan. It is not possible to attach PDF's, unlike most distribution systems, but links to Dropbox seem to work. Note – three members have replied to the email saying they were unable to open the Dropbox link on phone, only laptop. Having a Dropbox account should not be necessary, but it can look confusing.

GC felt Mailchimp could have a wider use in terms of distribution of other information. DW was not keen to expand current remit, owing to GDPR regulations. It should be information relevant to *walking* only, rather than social events, fundraising etc. Status Quo to be retained for the time being.

In KH's absence any urgent email could be done by MW, or BW. Website can be accessed by BW and EE. The Club F/Book page is open to all members but KH can monitor requests to join from anywhere. KH will forward any requests for JMHT booklets to BW, should they arise. NB A flurry of requests over Christmas and £5 donated by one recipient. NB We have a mountain of leaflets but JMHT booklets are now in short supply.

10. A.O.B.

- Walk distance accuracy. A walk was extended from 6 miles to 9 last week, PJ said that some walkers have a 6 mile limit and would not have attended. One walker was visibly struggling. On that occasion it was to avoid flooded areas but a reminder to be made at the start of walks, leaders training and other suitable events. Note – The new risk assessment form now has this reminder.



- Walk Leaders Training. This event (now distributed to members) has been set for Tuesday 28th February, 7pm at BW & NW's house. BW aims to promote online resources, Outdoor Active particularly.
- Templer Way. This event also been distributed, taking place on Sunday 10th May. BW is organising a coach with relevant pick-ups and is looking into certificates and badges. Quote from Blakes is £300, including pick up from Teignmouth. BW suggested £10 per traveller and the balance picked up by the Club, possibly JMHT funds.

11. Date and time of next meeting:

KH has booked the same venue. **6.30 for 7pm Churston Golf Club Wednesday 12th April 2023**. KH is away 16th Jan – 4th March.

The meeting concluded at 8.50pm