



Signed as a true and accurate record
of the meeting:

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Eric Evans - Chairman

SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 12th July
CHURSTON GOLF CLUB 6.30/7pm

Present

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

Apologies

none

1. **Committee were welcomed by EE and thanks conveyed for the reports provided**
2. **Matters Arising from last Meeting**

KH confirmed no specific action points that weren't already carried forward.

- Dartmoor Way – Brian S and Carol C have volunteered to monitor a section.
- Ramblers - New website launched and felt to be unsatisfactory in some areas (confirmed by other users outside SDR) At one point our walks weren't showing. Nicky has mostly corrected.
- SWCP Challenge – Completed and a thank you card for our donation, read by EE.

The minutes of the April meeting were therefore agreed and signed off by EE.

3. **Reports from all Officers** Received and all read.

EE – Stated how successful Porthcawl trip had been and thanked BW again for his hard work.

The SWCP walk was ongoing, but 3 of the original starters have completed it and EE would like this achievement recognised. Some discussion ensued and it was agreed that TS, with support from LW would be approached to do a slideshow presentation with anecdotes from TS. AC's contribution in terms of setting up the group and the original planning was acknowledged; without this it would not have got off the ground.

4. **Budget Prep**

CB Confirmed the financial situation as 'healthy' and the Committee read the RA suggestions for raising profile of the Group in their new initiative 'Grow your Group'. This was publicity, social media, meet up group, online boosts and material such as banners, badges and posters. It was made clear that these strategies must come from budget rather than additional funds and should be



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Budget projected accordingly. Generally, we felt FB had raised our profile, encouraged a lot of new followers and investment in further online groups or material was not necessary at this time. Links to our website and FB page are available on the National RA site too. NB This needs regular checking for glitches as there have been issues with the upgraded RA website.

First Aid Training – Online awareness was available via the RA, along with Leaders Training. Some had completed, or started but it was felt no substitute for the excellent Leader's Course provided by BW and that First Aid Awareness was already scheduled, organised by PJ in November '23. PJ confirmed this was not a Certified Course, but an *Awareness* and must be self-funded.

VR queried funds for ICE card wallets. EE has a good supply of the orange/white ones, obtained from Assemble. VR has no more wallets. The last supply were exhausted at the AGM. NB – *Possibly obtain more for AGM or will we all use the cards provided by the RA in future as they are laminated anyway?*

KH felt no investment needed at this time in additional material as no events planned. Local publications could be targeted when there is something to celebrate. DW wasn't keen to further publicise the SWCP group achievement.

Some discussion ensued around mileage claims for reccies. Generally, this is not available and not possible to offer within current budget unless exceptional.

EE thanked CB for her hard work on the budget complexities, particularly with Holiday deposits and balances, changes of mind and overpayments, which was appreciated by the whole membership.

5. Protocol when Leaving a Walk

EE and KH conveyed an occasion when it highlighted the need for a protocol when people leave a walk early. It was decided to raise at the AGM without being specific about a recent incident. The concern is the welfare of a break-away group walking a route not checked or risk assessed. Mobile phone numbers must be obtained, and a commitment made to confirm safe arrival back at the car. This would be even more important on shorter winter days. Although the walkers safety is not the leaders responsibility once they leave the walk - and this should be made clear - no leader would be happy going home without knowing all was well.

KH to table for AGM

6. Holiday Updates – BW

BW has investigated the Yorkshire Dales and it is looking positive. Similar costs to Portugal (coach prices have increased dramatically) and would include coach / walks / half board. Skipton would be the preferred destination for access to all facilities and walks. All were keen to pursue and the idea of 'booking out' the Herriott Hotel (25 rooms) for the week was ideal. Some work needed around costings/room allocations and discussion with AB Coaches ref the type of coach available to us. Comfort and aircon essential on such a long journey. BW to do a presentation and assess interest at the AGM when matters are clearer.

Concern was expressed over the expectation of BW in terms of timescale with personal commitments in October and the holiday to Portugal Also, the deadlines for reports and sufficient



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info being available on membership and accounts. It was agreed that KH explore moving the AGM date/day. *Done – moved to Tuesday 14th November*

EE suggested Ramblers Holidays be looked at as an alternative, with a coach. BW will check but felt it would be much more expensive.

7. **AGM Planning**

The date for the AGM has been rescheduled and confirmed: Regency Room, Livermead House Hotel, Tuesday 14th October 6.30pm for 7pm start. Committee Meeting, therefore set to allow time for planning, Weds 4th October. EE felt a light-hearted presentation from Tessa, 'Tales of the SWCP Challenge' would be interesting and appreciated, possibly supported by LW in terms of slideshow.

No Officers plan to leave Committee at this time, next year may be different. The format is for an email to go to Members, asking for nominations whilst advising that there are no Officer vacancies. Ordinary Committee Members may be elected if any come forward. New ideas and fresh minds are always welcome. *KH to schedule this notification to members in October.*

It was felt that BW should have support with presentation of reports /slideshow. BW however felt at this time it was easier to do it and possibly ask MW for technical advice if needed.

8. **A.O.B**

Social Committee – Suggestions for events/trips were welcomed. JE mentioned the success of the Broadhempston walk/meal idea from D. VR relayed the difficulties of the Crab & Hammer meal and how good The Harbour Light were in picking it up.

PJ & JE are looking into a coach trip May/early June 2024 to the Lost Gardens of Heligan. Quotes were quite high, as expected, making it costly with entry fees, £31 pp/ Discussion ensued around the journey time and making it a two-centre activity, minimising pick-up points to save costs. Ideally a meal on return but not manageable in terms of cost or timescale probably. PJ felt there was already a lot of interest and would raise at AGM when price and details confirmed. It would be open to other groups, if necessary to fill a standard coach. Would a smaller vehicle be more cost effective? PJ thought the price difference would be minimal.

9. **Date of next meeting** – Weds 4th October. Churston Golf Club

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm