



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 14th January 2026
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

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

Apologies

Bob Ward
Nicky Ward

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.**

2. **Matters Arising from October Meeting**

KH advised that most matters arising had been rolled forward to this agenda. She clarified the delay in ordering business cards – due to potential change of web address, and that NW had provided update on the Leader's Training timescale. Minutes were duly agreed and signed off by MW.

3. **Reports** - Chairman went through the reports and asked members if they had any queries or issues to share with the Committee.
- KMcC queried the order the reports were read in. KH advised that apart from Chair and Treasurer, they were collated in order received. KMcC asked for early warning when reports due. KH advised this was always done 2 weeks prior to the Meeting. Time to collate varied, but a week minimum.
 - LL advised that RB has audited and signed off 24/5 accounts and passed KH a copy for the record. She advised that £300 had been received towards the holiday, booked through Ramble Worldwide. The situation was positive and a reduction in website costs would make a big difference. It was thought a contribution from the JMHT fund towards commemorating the anniversary in 2026 would be possible.
 - HB has information to convey ref the proposed coach trip and will do this later.
 - DW – ref BW's report – pleased to report the JMHT sign on Brixham Harbour has been reinstated.
4. **AGM Review** – KH had requested feedback, negative or positive. Nothing negative received or heard. MW said likewise. It was agreed the Golf Club was excellent and we would go there again in 2026. Some discussion around the date. KH to try for a Tuesday, or a week earlier. **Done – Tuesday 10th November booked from 6pm.**



It was agreed the format worked well and a light-hearted section was welcome. KH thought the quiz worked in theory, it did take some time to compile, but in practice was too challenging. Ideas welcome for something similar next year. Possibly a Q&A quiz, or 'Which Rambler' picture one. KH happy to hand over to a.n.other if better suggestion.

5. **Coach Trip – HB- Bristol 18th June**

After some discussion around viability and timings, it was decided to postpone this until 2027. The only quote worth considering was Blakes Coaches, at £825 but the meal has increased to £24.98 with dessert. It would require a full vehicle to ensure cost was under £40. Taking the train was mooted, but it would involve a longer walk to the Quay and a meal in Bristol. The issue of deposits was also raised (for other events too) as the flexibility in our finances is limited. KH asked if an individual paid, e.g. on credit card, would this help. LL said it was not possible to repay an individual member. Deferred; HB to advise the Brent House who were holding the booking. RB will be advised as the idea was his.

6. **Holidays 2026**

Both the Mini-Break and the coach trip to the Peaks are being well received, bookings are sufficient to make both viable to go ahead. BW invited queries but none were raised.

7. **Devon Area Update**

MW advised no real change, nothing to report other than the future is uncertain with TS and JC resigning for the coming year. Questions arose about the need for Devon Area, the benefits and whether we could 'manage' without it. MW said possibly Devon could but in other areas it plays a greater part. He will advise as and when decisions are made.

8. **Incident on Moorland walk**

MW confirmed the high praise all gave for the efficiency, professionalism and swift action of the services involved. The Group too were calm, helpful and over all well- equipped and organised. RB was calm, not in pain but clearly immobile as light was fading and the location not ideal. BW completed the necessary incident report and did ask if 'any plan to sue', in accordance with RA training. It was agreed that all should check their first aid equipment and endeavour to ensure someone on every walk carries supplies. A reminder also to be issued at the start of walks in future ref the ICE cards. It could have been far worse had RB been unconscious or had it been a new member, unknown to us.

Further discussion ensued around supporting the two agencies involved, above the donation willingly given and gratefully received already. LW will put herself forward for a 26 mile walk on 4th July, raising money for Devon Air Ambulance. Dartmoor Search & Rescue, Tavistock have an event in September which we can also promote – date not yet available. All were in favour of supporting and promoting these events via our website and FB page.

9. **AOB**

- **JMHT Anniversary – 25th March**



All agreed to commemorate this, not necessarily on that date, but with a walk/cream tea. 18th June was suggested, replacing the coach trip, or a Tuesday around that time as a 'cream tea' walk on the next programme. HB to contact CGC for dates and prices, potentially 30/40 people. KMcC to contact Weavers at Cockington for same. Both are near the JHMT and a choice of walks could be offered. A sub-Committee meeting to take place, either virtually or physically and the outcomes conveyed in due course, prior to our next meeting (8th April.) Flyers will be produced to encourage attendance. LL confirmed a contribution from the JMHT account would be appropriate.

- Joint Walks

A query was raised about these in future. It was confirmed by MW that they may occur, but would never be at the detriment of SDR. It was noted that SHams do publish with gaps and we don't, but also that BW generally fills the spaces in our programme and they don't have a 'Bob' in their armoury. Leaders must agree to a proposal for a joint walk and parking will be considered, particularly on Thursdays.

10. Website Update – MW

We were in the downstairs room in order to take advantage of the VDU. MW gave a presentation of the new website, layout, options for change and flexibility. He confirmed he could find no reason not to progress the transfer and had advised MD that we would be moving when the current contract expires, in April. It does mean changing email addresses for Secretary/Chair etc and on literature, as well as the many people we contact regularly. (Although KH mainly uses her own email address for Golf Club, Paignton Club etc) Facebook – will require a tidy up in terms of links too. We will promote the new site there, but the current gallery and blog on FB will not change. The new site will have a small gallery, but much better than Flickr. Likely that MW BW and KH will have user access with MW being Main Administrator. Business cards will be produced and distributed when the new site address is confirmed.

The map/location facility is straightforward, linking to Google Maps and walk dates can be transferred to online calendars. Members may find it 'strange' at first but it is very user friendly and brings us in line with many Ramblers groups. SHams have been using the site for a year now with success. The walks displayed are extracted from the information NW inputs, meaning changes are reflected swiftly. There is also a 'news' box for at-a-glance updates.

KH was asked to remove the outdated Events and Holidays from our current website – **done**.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

A change of day, possibly a Monday or even Tuesday for April and July was requested. Unfortunately, the Paignton Club are closed on Mondays and Tuesday so Committee Meetings will continue to be Wednesdays, i.e. booked for **8th April and 8th July**. Reports required as always, please note your diaries.

AGM – Has been booked for **Tuesday 10th November** at Churston Golf Club, as requested. Room available from 6am. Please note your diaries. Our Committee Meeting in October should take place on 7th to allow reports to be submitted, slideshow and quiz to be created. There may be a problem with Accounts and this date. To discuss in April.

Meeting concluded at 8.40pm