



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 15th October 2025
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

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

Signed as a true and accurate record:

.....
Mike Wilkin – Chairman

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Date

1. **Committee were welcomed by MW and thanks conveyed for Officers Reports.**
2. **Matters Arising from July Meeting**

KH advised that all matters arising had been rolled forward to this agenda. Minutes were duly signed off by MW, Chairman.

3. **Reports** - Officers were asked by the Chairman if they had any queries or issues to raise at this point from their reports, to share with the Committee.
 - KmC advised that Jackie Mann has created Xmas flyers for many years for SDR. She has been invited to the party at the H&H.
 - LL advised that RB has audited the end of year accounts and signed off. She also explained the latest figures (see additional info with this report). LL felt that we should aim to spend any surplus, as appropriate. Discussion ensued and it was decided to use social funds to support a coach trip, details later in the meeting.
 - BW explained his 'issue in Babbacombe' with a PROW and also at Shaldon Approach GC. He attends meetings as scheduled and is awaiting one more piece of information to progress the latter, ie supporting the continuance of the PROW from the main road to The Ness.
 - NW confirmed the programme has been printed and is on the website with no unfilled walks. BW has picked up the shortfall but it is not as many as anticipated. NW sought Committee support in 'choosing' walks, ie where one was preferable but two had been submitted for one day. It was agreed that the decision lay with her and it would be supported by all. The use of colour in the programme was supported and it was hoped an increased contribution from W.Cardale, Ramble Worldwide would cover more than half of the £30 extra. LL has invoiced them.



- It was confirmed that the Club now owns, thanks to CW, both a 2 man tent and 16 man shelter, should the need ever arise.

4. **Leaders Training**

NW has been liaising with Melanie at Ramblers. Paper copies of the Leaders Training, in the form of the handbook and some questions, have been obtained and NW and BW will set up sessions on request. KMcC asked to attend. Take up of the online assessment has been about 50%, with a year end closing date; this is of concern. Two Committee members said they had yet to do it, but would. Those that had, agreed it was a bit laborious but not difficult. NW to raise it at the AGM and offer support to leaders and potential leaders. Ramblers want to strongly encourage online if at all possible.

5. **Devon Area – Update**

- i) Members Day took place in September, a very wet day. Thanks to CH-McG for representing SDR. The venue/area to host next year hasn't been decided yet, Devon will have to take a turn at some point.
- ii) Dogs - We allow on short leads. One new member recently had a very well-behaved dog off a lead. It was felt, should she attend again, someone should advise her. KH always tells potential members who ask about dogs about our policy.
- iii) Devon Area Future – MW had no further updates at this time.

6. **SDR Website**

MW confirmed his recent correspondence with regard to a new website, at minimal cost, £16 pa funded by Ramblers. He has set up a shadow site and offered to do a demo at the next Committee meeting, which was agreed an excellent idea.

Questions: Will a gallery be available? – Yes

Can we use to pinpoint meeting point? – Yes

Can we free-text edit, ie route diversions, weather updates. – Yes

MW believes it will give us everything we currently have, but it is different and change requires some adjustment, he will raise at the AGM, advising members with reassurance that it will be a smooth transition but it does mean moving to .co.uk not .com or .org, so literature will have to be changed. KH said all flyers/business cards/letter heads and templates would need updating. It was agreed, if we take it up, to aim for April when the renewal fee for hosting the old site is due. It would work alongside FB which is the main source of instant updates and is the site used by an increasing number of Ramblers Groups across the country, including South Hams.

MW to give MD the 'heads up' that we likely won't be renewing the licence beyond April 2026.

7. **Cotswold Trip – Review, 2026 Plans**

KH had received positive feedback on this outing, particularly the Brent House Carvery, despite the rush to meet return time for the driver, then parking issues with coach meant rushing our meal/sweet. LL felt the medium walk wasn't particularly interesting and the short walk was definitely not worth doing. The long walk seemed the to reason to do and the others were 'added on'. It was felt perhaps 3 walks too ambitious in an area like that



but credit to TS for organising it. The coach was not full, possibly due to it being a busy week in August. Without the subsidy from SDR funds it would have been very expensive, nearer £50pp.

Discussion followed on something similar next year. KH provided some old (2012/2013) flyers created by RB for trips to Bath and Bristol. RB had tentatively offered to lead, with support. Bristol was the preferred option so that non-walkers could enjoy the Quay and City, longer walkers could do the 8m up to Cabot Tower and over the suspension bridge. LW knows the area well and HB and KH have recently done a slightly longer and very enjoyable walk, from Templemeads Station, on Dock Heritage Day.

It was agreed to support this next year, from the social fund, for SD Ramblers members only. We could go to the Brent House again, or the Beambridge Inn. Both good carvery's that take coach parties. June or early July might see a greater take up. KH to advise RB and seek dates, probably a Thursday.

BW suggested the Dorset Ridgeway another year as an interesting place for a trip.

8. **Review of 2025 Holiday & 2026 Plans**

Lanjaron, Spain. Agreed, excellent. The only concern was check-in with Ryan Air, BW had to do it all but found an email address that allowed it online. He has a few ideas for 2027 to be raised another time, is currently working on 2026.

4th-8th May – Self-drive. Haven Holiday Park, Hayle. Caravans at very reasonable price, circa £105, booking open now. BW will create flyer and inform members at AGM. Good options for meals, large restaurant. Walks around Lizard area, different from Newquay ones. HB offered to lead as an ex local to the area.

6th-11th Sept – Sheffield Mercure 5 nights. Walk Peak District. Competitive prices, 11 single rooms available. Deposit of £100 will secure. BW to create flyer and raise at AGM. Coach quotes to be sourced, probably Blakes.

9. **Social Committee – The Way Forward**

KMc advised she would stand one further year, as had always been her plan when nominated. She queried the need for a social committee. Anyone can organise an event, ie HB/Xmas Meal and TS/Coach and rail Trips, NW/Evening walk-meal. It was agreed by all that KMc was a necessary link and should be retitled 'social co-ordinator', bringing ideas and concerns to Committee for discussion and support.

There may be fewer events in 2026 as most settings require deposits and the Club cannot always pay in advance. Refunds can be complicated. Members will be asked to suggest events and offered support in organisation, collating data, names and payments, e.g. TS's Train Trip and Coach Trip were supported in Admin by KH and LL in payments.

10. **AGM Planning**

KH provided the 2024 Agenda for guidance. Some discussion around which AGM we were into, 42nd or 43rd. It was agreed it was the 43rd in this year, 2025. KH ran through the format.



BW asked for slides from each officer which he will prepare and distribute. LL will let KH have the final accounts signed by RB, Auditor, for file retention.

BW will do his usual presentation of 2025 holidays. A briefing on 2026 holidays will take place after the break. All present Officers are standing again, KH to prepare the necessary paperwork to record nominations and seconds, with help from DW.

BW, MW and LW to visit the Golf Club to ensure facilities are fit for purpose, possibly on Weds 22nd Oct.

KH to create a sign in sheet. HB to get two tins sweets. KH to get copies of final Agenda and Accounts to place on seats, when finalised. Mailchimp to go to all members with details of time, venue and Agenda. Notification also required, on FB and website.

Discussion on speakers; TS's email was read and the ideas considered. It was felt the slot was too short for much and something light-hearted was best. KH suggested the 'Picture Poser' Where Am I? idea. She will work on this and send a test to MW and LW for consideration. Paper and pencils could be provided and although scored, not a competitive thing, just the 'glory of winning'. BW suggested one picture per slide, rather than a collage and not provided during the break. A small or jokey prize was considered. Confectionery?

BW will do a presentation after that of his ideas for 2026, ie Hayle Caravan Mini-Break and the Peak District. It may be that we can suggest the coach trip to Bristol, if a date can be agreed with RB.

11. **AOB**

- i) Fitness to go on Club Holidays - Some discussion around not just the obvious walking ability, but also the mental capacity to participate safely in both the journey and walks, particularly on a foreign Club Holiday. Advice has been sought from Ramblers which encouraged support of less able members in all ways a 'policy is under review' currently and we were offered support from associated societies. Committee decided that it was unfair to spoil a potentially expensive holiday for a few who would in effect be 'carers'. Any person attending who it was felt had issues of concern would be asked to provide a carer for the duration of the trip, or not participate.
- ii) Xmas Meal – HB is liaising with the Livermead Cliff Hotel. We do have free parking there. There is a vegetarian option and attendees can mix n match from both menus. Flyers have been created (now needing amendment) and will be distributed on walks and at the AGM, as well as the website and FB page.
- iii) Business Cards – HB has this in hand, obtained a nicer template from another printer, but will put this matter on hold until April, to co-incide with new web address.

12. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

KH suggested 14th January and advised that she was going to Australia for 6 weeks from 20th January. This was agreed and KH will confirm with Paignton Club for 6pm again.

Meeting concluded at 8.45pm