



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 17th APRIL 2024
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

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

Signed as a true and accurate record:

.....
Eric Evans – Chairman

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Date

Presentation

Mike O'Donnell
Alisdair Anderson

1. **Committee were welcomed by EE and thanks conveyed for Officers Reports.**
2. Mike O'D gave a short talk on the 'Wellbeing Walks' which have been running 14 years now and are from Brixham. They now fall under 'Ramblers' and the dates are available on the Ramblers website, if a little hard to find he felt. Whilst not asking for active promotion, he wanted us to be aware and cascade information on request and via word of mouth for anyone wanting the social connection who could not walk on SD Club walks. It was not suggested we put anything on the social programme, but KH will endeavour to put a link on website somewhere and all would raise awareness. KH has MO'D's contact details.

3. **Matters Arising from January Meeting**

KH read two matters.

1. English Riviera Walking Festival, Graham Kerr had done a recce with EE and BW which proved too long (11m) and 'not interesting enough' for the Festival. He has agreed with KH that a tour of 'Chocolate Box Cockington' would be more appropriate and will take place on 7th May. KH to recce with him on 26th April, this would not be a SDR walk as no real connection but possibly an opportunity to promote verbally and she will take some programmes and JMHT booklets.
2. Website – EE
Eric has spoken with MD who has managed to get a reduced fee and this has been agreed, LL will make the payment and status quo preserved.

The Minutes were, therefore, considered read and approved and were signed off by EE.



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

KH – Advised that she had invoiced our sponsors; Dry Boot and Ramblers Holidays agreed to pay but the Berry Head Hotel has queried the ‘low profile’ their ad has on the website and not on the hard copy at all. NW said there was insufficient space on the hard copy. KH felt the ‘Links’ tab was little used and for the £25 a year perhaps best we decline this. KH to write to Berry Head Hotel.

NW – Programme now available and online but RB had suggested we were paying too much. NW to investigate Manor Print next time for a more competitive quote.

Cost to us was £80 at Partington. EE thanked NW for her hard work in producing another programme despite the loss of so many regular and long-time leaders. It will continue to be a struggle it was agreed, and we should do all we can to support those interested in leading.

LL – Queried the £20k in JMHT and should we make better use of it in terms of interest. We currently get on 2%. Is it LL’s role to do this? Advice sought. It was agreed we should use for supporting group events but longer term there does need to be a fund available for maintenance and signage. LL to look at a fixed term, 95 day access account at 4.5% but we are already on 120 day notice so that may change. **NB** – EE has signed a letter for Hampshire Bank, giving the required notice and request to move to higher interest account.

LL also agreed to liaise with KH next time to ensure accounts more readable, possibly over 2 pages.

DW – Membership is steady around 230, some new members filtering through but several withdrawn due to health or personal concerns. KM queried how many paid members actually walk, DW said around half. Those that did not may have just opted to support the cause, or forgotten to cancel or be in a transient position.

BW – JMHT signage, the start point being on Brixham Harbour, BW has rebuilt the sign and will put it in place shortly.

5. **Devon Area AGM**

LL, BW, NW, WB, MB, RW and EE attended, SDR were, therefore, very well represented. LL had hoped to meet the Area Treasurer, but she was absent on the day. RW will be stepping down from his role.

Synopsis:

i) **Walk Leaders Training**. There will be a new online package to support leaders. Not compulsory at this time but informative on protocol, record keeping, safety advice, walk ‘talks’ and preparation. No plan to make recce’s compulsory or remove altogether yet. (nb KH distributing the link to Committee with these minutes – should we put on website to raise awareness?).

ii) **Meet Up** – A social media forum. KH advised this originated in America after Twin Towers event. Is popular with younger people and Ramblers suggest we adopt to lower average age of walkers and future proof. However, it was felt we have an active FB page where many new members start, and a clear website. KH did not think *Meet Up* would enhance our



membership particularly and she did not want to take on more promotional work at this time. It was decided not to pursue *Meet Up* for the SDRC, at this time.

iii) Fund Raising – Some discussion around what we could and couldn't raise money for. Charities cannot contribute to Charities. However, raising money outside Club Funds for Children in Need and SWCP seemed to be acceptable – last year we raised £500 for the SWCP and previously we have assisted with a clapper bridge at Huntingdon. EE does not plan a SWCP fundraiser this year. LL also asked a question of Area about potentially fraudulent activity on the Unity Bank account and who was accountable (the recent Horizon scandal raised concerns) She did not feel she was given a clear answer on culpability.

6. Promotion of Monday Walks

After Mike's presentation it was clear we do not promote on the website to the detriment of our Tuesday walks. It was felt KH should have contact details and provide to any who approach for wellbeing type walks, and we should raise awareness by word of mouth and possibly at AGM.

7. Ramblers Worldwide

This is the rebranded 'Ramblers Holidays'. We promote on our website and programme and receive £100 per annum. Club Officers seem bombarded with emails and discounted holidays but usually very short notice. It was not felt we should not promote further.

8. Holiday Updates – BW

Dorset - Around 40 booked, including some doing the SWCP there. First walk will be Monday around 1pm, then three walks each day Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday with a final one on Friday before we leave. Walks will be graded short/med/long, 4/6-7/8-10 miles approx.. 6 leaders altogether, BW is doing 5, other are TS, TW, JW, EE and CW. Bob will email final details and programme on Friday 26th.

The Claypipe Inn looks to be a good venue for evening meals, reasonably priced and good menu.

The Dales - 37 going, hotel now full but not coach so others can go and stay elsewhere. We have 35 in the hotel, deposit has been paid. Breakfast included and evening meal any 2 courses, but tea/coffees extra. Blakes coaches have a no dogs policy, but we may have 'drivers discretion' when there. All walks will be without Risk Assessments and advice from Ramblers is that they are *not* essential on trips.

9. Social Committee Plans – KM/VR/PJ

The plans for the coming months were outlined;

10th May, Paignton History Tour. Molly's can seat 25, currently 20 booked but walk unlimited.

21st June – Coach Trip to Rosemoor 32 paid so looking optimistic. 11 are non-members. It was felt 35 would be definite so a few more would help to cover costs, but we could not charge RHS members entry, only coach. Coach bill is £625. KH to promote via TRC and re-



post on FB. After the closing date to SDR, KMcC will promote to the Torquay and District Gardening Club if necessary.

Brixham Fish Market Tour – Rockfish Breakfast Date changed to September 11th, NW has amended programmes. Cost is £25, 15 places only. Breakfast included.

Christmas Party – In hand, will be lunch time as evening not well attended.

VR & PJ raised concerns about venues requiring substantial deposits 'up front'. VR had already paid over £300 and was concerned that it would not be covered. LL and all agreed it should be refunded to VR straightaway and no expectation for anyone to be out of pocket. Further discussion about having a Club Debit Card available. (nb this has since been refused by Unity Bank, would require two signatures so not workable.) It was felt that we are not a savings account and Club Funds should be available, possibly the JMHT, to support Club Events, within reason.

10. A.O.B

PJ raised a complaint ref the OSE walks, one in particular (Karen's Abbotskerswell) being too many stiles and on the day muddy and difficult. KH conceded the weather had been against a country walk, lunch had been a great success, but the walk had taken a long time and three fell in the mud. It would not be repeated. Discussion ensued, difficult to find OSE walks that weren't just up and down seafront or Stover. Ultimately, they must be flat to encourage those unable to hills or stiles or perhaps recovering from operations. EE had reccied with D and declined one walk he suggested for this reason. We need not to put leaders off but must check the walks submitted.

Two Items not discussed at the meeting:

1. Social Event Sharing – KH has been asked by Paul Scott of Torbay Ramblers if we might be interested in a 'Music and Dance Evening' at St. George's Church Hall. Bring your own food and drink, music provided free just the hire charge making it more cost effective than the Celidh or Barn Dance arrangement. The next one is while we are away in Dorset, but KH can forward some info to Social Committee for consideration if interested.
2. Walkers Seat - On Chris B's walk 18th April it was noted the 'walkers log' overlooking the Dart at Greenway has almost totally rotted away. Would a new 'log' or two benches, funded by JMHT with a plaque mentioning SDR and 'Enjoy the View' by a good idea and good use of the funds as it is on the JMHT and Nat Trust land? EE has written to Tim Bumby, NT Greenway and will update when reply received.

Date and Time of next meetings : Please note diaries

Wednesday 10th July – 6.45pm Paignton Club – confirmed

Wednesday 9th October - “ “ “

Meeting Closed at 8.55pm

