



SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 22nd JANUARY 2025
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

Present

Mike Wilkin
Lesley Wilkin
Karen Howes
Val Rose
Paddy Jewry
Nicky Ward
Bob Ward
Dorothy Webley
Linda Lister
Kate McCormack

Apologies

Hilary Bick

Signed as a true and accurate record:

.....
Mike Wilkin – Chairman

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Date

1. Committee were welcomed by MW at his first meeting and thanks conveyed for Officers reports.

Apologies - HB.

2. Matters Arising from October Meeting

KH referred to the October minutes, raising a few items;

JJ & NJ – Issues with their house sale has delayed them joining Committee, they are currently abroad.

Invoices – KH confirmed Harris Boots and Ramble Worldwide have been invoiced. Only Harris have paid. KH to chase contact at Rambler Worldwide for the second time, if nothing received the advertisement to be removed from our publications. ***NB Done. William Cardale has apologised and promised payment imminently. LL to advise when received.***

Edit – Christmas Lunch was at the *Cliff* not *House*.

Robert Hesketh Talk – Planned for October but now deferred until 2026.

BW – Plans had been discussed for some of his SDR files to be moved to a shared drive. BW is working on this.

No further items to follow up.

The minutes were, therefore, considered read and signed off by MW.

3. Reports - Officers were asked if they had any queries or issues to raise from their reports; MW asked around the table.



BW mentioned the footpath at Shaldon Golf Course, recently walked with Chris B, and the public access concerns. Has anyone used it? Would our records show how many had walked it previously, in order to support a motion to DCC to prioritise keeping the path open? DW thought some records might be found of walks in that area but it was not one regularly walked by us. Previous programmes might be sufficient to evidence its use by a 'significant number' of walkers.

BW – Wanted to ask if a Leaders Course would be welcomed in 2025. It was agreed to support this but later in the year, or early 2026.

NW – A request for walks for May-Oct would be issued soon. Offers had been received from South Hams leaders. KH said she was leading one walk a programme for them, their programmes are Jan – Apr, May – Aug, Sept- Dec. Sharing leaders was thought to be a positive way forward to sustain a walks programme in future. The shortage of leaders, following the departure of so many, remains a concern.

NW – The leader's form is only used by one person currently. NW is happy to receive details on email as it is easier to read. BW inserts grid references for all walks. Would What3Words be helpful? It was thought an unnecessary extra task and not totally reliable. BW to set up a link with NW's email address on the website for walks to be submitted.

PJ – Confirmed 11 bookings received for the Rockfish event in March. Could accommodate 20-21.

KH –AOB item added, similar to BW's regarding footpath access.

Working with MW and DW on 'cleansing' data on F/Book and Mailchimp. Quite time consuming but proving positive. *Now complete.*

Regularly receiving emails for JMHT booklets and queries about joining.

One new query, a prospective walker 'unable to see it due to the colour scheme' and 'unclear on the start point'. The current system of grid ref and Apple/Google maps works well via Smartphone and satnav. No change felt necessary. No other complaints have been received regarding the website colour scheme. **No action.**

4. AGM Review - All

It was agreed by all that the venue and format of the meeting were positive. TS's presentation offered some levity and was very well received. KH to request same arrangement for Wednesday November 12th, 2025, hopefully with parking included.

NB – It appears parking will incur a charge of £100, in addition to the room hire and refreshments, making the evening a costly £475. This has been reluctantly agreed but KH exploring alternatives. Update – Churston Golf Club has been provisionally booked at less than half the cost, including drinks & biscuits.

5. Devon Area – MW

MW, LW and KH attended a zoom meeting run by Devon Area. Concerns had been raised about the vulnerability of groups who could not provide a full walks programme and/or a Committee, thereby not complying with the constitution. Teignmouth & Dawlish and Tiverton & Cullompton had already been subsumed by neighbouring groups. SDR have



received the TQ postcodes (but no leaders have come forward yet). Totnes were concerned that not only were they short of leaders but their chairman was undertaking more than one role on Committee and, should he leave, it would not be sustainable. Discussion followed around 'giving up' some parishes to them, in the hope it would increase membership long term. All groups suffer lack of walk leaders. To date we have never *not* been able to produce a programme, thanks largely to NW's hard work and BW's filling the gaps, but it remains a concern. MW to feedback after the Devon AGM in February where this may be raised. KH felt that the days of being part of only one group had changed due to easy access to walk details on the websites. Socially members tended to stay with their designated groups, but many opted for a walk on the day, or in the area, that appealed.

Devon Area AGM is on 22nd February – venue moved to Chudleigh Town Hall.

6. Holiday Updates – BW

Newquay - Around 45 booked. BW has received offers to lead and hopes to provide a variety of distances again.

Andalucia, Spain – 24 deposits paid. The concern is the Bristol airport coach transfer. It is proving very expensive. BW has requested 4 quotes, only one received thus far of £1800. It may also be necessary to have the Ryanair App on a smartphone, this could be a problem for some. BW has requested travel insurance details for all.

Exeter Ramblers have asked us to promote their trip to St. Ives in October. It was agreed we could do this on FBook. It may be that we need to promote ours in future to other groups so this is a good idea going forward, due to the rising cost of coach travel.

7. AOB

LW – 'SDR Recce Buddies' WhatsApp Group – To be set up, due to concerns expressed by some over doing recces alone. This might encourage new leaders to buddy-up and try a walk. **Done**

NW – DR has offered an evening walk. Should this be a Walk Co-ordinator role to organise, or the Social Committee? It was agreed that DR would appreciate support and NW would continue to help him as these walks are popular. A recce would be necessary, also help booking the venue, meal options etc.

KH - Lighthouse Beach – A request from a member to support a petition to re-open the path to this beach in Kingswear, closed some 3 years. KH had responded saying, we do not support distribution emails to our membership and giving reasons, but she had personally signed the petition and, although the actual path is little known, it is a public right of way so we support the principle of it being opened again soon. Committee were given copies of the online petition details.

KH – Mailchimp – KH to provide a new list to DW as soon as details are clarified and up to date. **Done**



DW – Safety. Following recent incident where a walker was ‘lost’ in the misty conditions, was it necessary to remind leaders and walkers of the protocol and to wear hi-vis, take whistles, not to spread out and wait at turnings etc?

BW thought this could certainly be endorsed at any training and was always worth a mention at the start of walks.

BW – Would there be interest in walking the Templer Way again? The route of the granite railway and Stover Canal from Haytor quarries to Teignmouth Quay, is around 17 miles in total and can be walked in sections, if drivers can be organised. BW to explore for Summer 2025.

VR/PJ – Confirmed their intention to leave Committee in 2025. VR at the AGM in November, PJ earlier if possible.

8. **Date of next meeting** – Weds 23rd April, 2025 **6 for 6.30 pm** at the Paignton Club. ***KH has confirmed this booking with the Paignton Club.***

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm

KH 27/01/2025