



# SOUTH DEVON RAMBLERS

## COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> APRIL 2025  
THE PAIGNTON CLUB, ESPLANADE, PAIGNTON TQ4 6ED

### Present

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

Signed as a true and accurate record:

.....  
Mike Wilkin – Chairman

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Date

Apologies: Dorothy Webley

### 1. Committee were welcomed by MW and thanks conveyed for Officers Reports.

Agenda error was corrected to reflect HB present and DW 'Apologies'.

### 2. Matters Arising from January Meeting

KH read matters highlighted.

- i) Sponsorship. Berry Head Hotel – discontinued. Harris Dry Boots- discontinued. Ramble Worldwide – deferred decision until July, confusion over payments.
- ii) BW's 'shared drive' – work in progress
- iii) Leaders Course – decided to run in 2026 and would include some training on the new Ramblers online training and risk assessments – currently not working well.
- iv) Templer Way – Interest has been expressed, BW offering in October.

No further matters to follow up that aren't in the current Agenda. The Minutes were, therefore, considered read, approved and signed off by MW.

### 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.

- i) KH conveyed DW's comment - that she did *not* have access to dates of birth via Ramblers database in order to confirm 'big birthdays'.
- ii) BW advised that he had bought a sign-making kit for the broken one at Poor Bridge, which he has temporarily removed. He felt the kit worked well and would replace all other markers on the post, but didn't think it would be suitable for Nat Trust signage. It would however be a good investment long term.
- iii) LL had some updates on the accounts:  
Expenditure – BW £250, website £428, Prog Printing £85.  
Revised Totals: BAC £280, Self- Funding £1150, J.Musgrave £2546,



Hampshire Bank £20,200 (interest of £620). No financial concerns, if anything we need to ensure we spend. It has been decided to support the coach trip to the Cotswolds with £500 from the social fund.

NB Coach has been booked with Blakes and flyers now available. KH & BW to put on web and FB, otherwise TS is organising this trip.

- iv) VR advised that this was PJ's last Committee Meeting and she also would be standing down after the July meeting. She felt a 'goodbye' at the Hare & Hounds for her and PJ could perhaps be in the Summer or early Autumn as she won't be in the UK for the AGM. Agreed to book this after the July meeting. HB

Night Walk, 7<sup>th</sup> November (full moon). HB is looking into this, not yet certain that it will take place. Some concerns ref Risk Assessment walking in the dark, is the cover the same? Does it matter since only leader is covered. It was agreed RA would be done. Head torches could be used but the point of the full moon would be to minimise other light. KH offered to recce, BW to give HB the track of a recent OSE walk there, 3.5m approx. HB to investigate meal at Moorland Hotel (Tinpickle & Rhum) and parking there. To discuss at July meeting.

#### 4. **Devon Area AGM**

MW has submitted his notes with the Agenda. He advised that there is a move to have the next Area AGM between the Club AGM's and the end of year, rather than in February. MW said it was well attended. The Shams Ramblers did a presentation on their South Hams Way. There will be 'opening day walks' to which other groups are invited. NB Clashes with our trip to Spain, 14<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025. KH has advised Area of our AGM date.

'Family Walks' were raised. EE led one in the past, his daughter being Headteacher of a local school. It was felt our membership weren't overly keen to offer another. Grandchildren are welcome as guests on walks, providing they meet the normal dress and ability requirements.

#### 5. **SDR AGM – Venue**

As discussed in January, concerns about the car parking, general welcome and refreshments at the Livermead House and KH has researched alternatives. The cost has also risen by over £100, despite a reduction on request. One member has received a fine for not providing reg. number. The Constitution requires that members are not charged to attend AGM's (although it is a parking fee not an entry fee) Not all groups pay this at the Hotel and they do not wish to be flexible for us.

KH has the date, 12<sup>th</sup> November, provisionally held at the Livermead House *and* the Churston Golf Club. CGC have offered the downstairs room, free parking, with tea, coffee and biscuits for 60 people. They have a newly fitted screen for presentations, which can be linked to a laptop. It would require BW/MW/LW/KH to visit and check facilities and seating, as is normal prior to the event.

The matter was discussed, would it put off those living further away (VR, Teignmouth, others Newton Abbot.?) It was put to a vote and the motion to move to CGC carried.

**Update:** The Churston GC has been booked, £75 room hire and T&C with biscuits £2 ph. To be reviewed in January ref 2026 venue.



## 6. **Dartmoor Way**

MW was unclear on our responsibilities and would clarify with EE. BS & CS, EE & DW, were designated monitors but was this done regularly? Review at July meeting.

## 7. **ICE Cards & Ramblers Training**

KH confirmed the offer by Ramblers to provide free ICE cards was in a recent email and she had placed an order. It seems many members have not heard of them and do not carry. We cannot enforce, but we should raise awareness, and make available at the start of walks, as well as the AGM, which many walkers do attend.

KMc mentioned the problems with the Ramblers online walk leader training system. This would put many potential leaders off, didn't work properly. BW & NW agreed it was clumsy but was being sorted out, BW & NW to support anyone wanting help with it, only applies to new leaders, current leaders were migrated automatically to the leaders list.

## 8. **JMHT & 'Projects to Consider'**

GC has again advised us of his involvement in 'Janet's Trail' and the progress to date. We have previously made a donation. This project is now supported by Ramblers nationally. JMHT – 2026 is the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Discussion ensued on ways to celebrate, walk and meal perhaps. BW to look at a walk that covered 2-3 sections and offered options for all abilities but finished at the same venue/hostelry for a social gathering. To be discussed at future meetings and raised at the AGM. We could use some of the JMHT funds for this event. It should involve VV as her husband helped set up the trail in 2006.

## 9. **Holiday Updates – BW**

- i) BW advised he would be going to Newquay soon to recce some walks and check some details with the Parkdean. 50 people have now booked. He was aiming to use NT car parks so as many permits as possible would be helpful. There will be a walk on Bodmin Moor on the Monday, about 1.30 (historical interest).  
Short walks planned to be about 5m, medium 7m and long 9-10.  
At the moment St. Agnes Head, Falmouth, Padstow Estuary were potential locations, details coming soon. BW will lead 5 of the walks and is open to offers if anyone else wishes to lead one of those.
- ii) 24 are booked for Spain, 19 going on the coach which will not divert from normal 3 point pick-up route. Balance due end of June but will be requested in May to ensure deadline with Ramblers is met.
- iii) Cotswolds Trip; TS is organising but EE and BW will each be leading shorter walks and CH-M the long one. Meal on the way home, it seems no need for early 'meal choices' to be given but TS will confirm. Closing date for bookings 21<sup>st</sup> June.



## 10. AOB

- i) BW is looking at holidays for 2026, Northumberland or the Peak District. It was felt potential 9 hr drive to Northumberland might be excessive. Peak District a better option. KH stated she had previously stayed at Palace Hotel, Buxton and enjoyed a good walking holiday (2016). It was big enough for large groups and has recently had a refurb apparently. BW to work on this in due course.
- ii) HB ask if we could have 'business type cards' to keep in rucksacks and give to interested walkers. She will contact Partington Print. KH said they had been useful for the Torbay Ramblers and very cheap, need only give website and a generic email, Chairman@ or Secretary@. Would be good to have SDR Logo, or appropriate watermark.
- iii) KMc raised Rambler Training, which is an ongoing issue. RA's are still required, need not be submitted but should be retained by the leader.
- iv) As it was Paddy's last meeting, a small gift was presented and appreciation given from all present for her dedication and hard work over 12 years, particularly the number of social events she has been involved in. She said she will keep on walking.

### DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Please note diaries:

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October. KH to book , arrangements to remain the same, 6.30 prompt start.

Meeting Concluded at 8.50pm