

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Tuesday 24 August 2021 at The Atrium,

Welcome and apologies

It was a full house! Karen H was welcomed as an observer.

1. Minutes of the last meeting and Matters Arising

These were reviewed and Action Points considered.

TS had sent out a draft policy for Nominations to the Committee and asked if this could be agreed. There is one edit to the policy to be made before posting to the website:

It was decided to discourage last minute nominations at the AGM but not to exclude them entirely in exceptional circumstances. It was agreed, however, to decline last minute nominations for a vacancy when a contender had already stepped forward.

ACTION POINT: TS to amend the policy, post to the website and draw attention to it.

The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting in October 2020.

2. Membership (DW)

DW followed up her report stating that membership of SDR now stands at 247, only 4 fewer than the highest membership figure in the last 11 years. Ramblers seem to be recruiting well with the pandemic period renewing people's appetite for walking. All agreed how good it is to see new faces out on walks. Recent TV programmes are highlighting the joys of walking and this can only be good for Ramblers.

3. AGM 2021

- **Venue and date**

EE and TS had visited The Carlton and met with Events Manager Duncan. The Riviera room offered has ample space to allow for social distancing, has a bar and AV screens. Parking was discussed. Cost of £100 was acceptable.

Methods of publicising the event were discussed and the permitted use of Mailchimp was clarified by DW.

ACTION POINTS: TS and JF to publicise the meeting through the agreed channels

EE, BW and JF to explore the technology side to ensure things run smoothly on the night. Public address system also to be checked.

- **Committee appointments**

Apart from TS all members of the committee expressed their willingness to serve another year if elected!

- **Shape of the meeting and agenda**

The agenda as the last year was agreed to work well. TS agreed to publish the agenda on the website. We are permitted to use Mailchimp to notify members of the AGM and the agenda can be attached.

The numbers of members who are not online was raised. It was estimated that there are 60 or so members without email addresses or who do not access the Internet regularly or indeed at all. It was emphasized there is no wish to exclude such members.

The issue of the Independent Examiner was raised.

Members of the committee agreed to present their reports in the usual way.

A member of Devon Area would be invited to attend.

ACTION POINTS: DW to ring David M regarding the AGM

TS to ring Jenny P and Barry Mathews

CB to ask George C if he is prepared to act as Independent Examiner

TS will invite Devon Area to send a representative

4. Events for diary:

- **Walks programme (NW) Risk assessing**

EE read out the guidance from Central about the importance of risk assessing walks. The Risk Assessments (RAs) should be in written format and retained for 3 years in order to comply with the terms of the insurance.

A discussion ensued regarding the practicalities of such an expectation.

BW remarked that the actual insurance cover is low; JF asked to what extent our advice on www.southdevonramblers.com conveyed the importance of RAs. Other points made: Health and Safety was part of leadership training. All our walk

leaders recce even though some may not produce it in written form. NW proposed holding the RAs centrally and indeed completing any that were not done in the required format. JF felt we complied to the extent of 'best endeavours'.

ACTION POINTS: BW to explore in more detail the terms of the insurance policy. NW to highlight risk assessing in her report at the AGM and to bring copies of the RA form to distribute.

NW reported that Bob A no longer wished to head up the Tea Shop walks but has given 25 five mile routes to her to allocate appropriately. It was agreed there was a strong need for walks of this length; the meal afterwards was deemed to be less important.

Following the success of supporting a new leader recently, NW made a plea to all to assist potential new leaders.

- **DNPA 70th anniversary**

This has lost momentum due to the DNPA awaiting the outcome of the Glover Report which raises some uncertainty around the status of the Authority. However, all groups scheduling walks in October will see their walks listed under the umbrella heading of DPNA 70th anniversary. Some of ours qualify for this categorization.

- **Dartmoor Way walking festival**

Maintenance issues raised by EE have not been dealt with.

The festival will now be scheduled for April 2022

Rob B, Bernard P and EE have responded to the call for walks from Buckfastleigh.

ACTION POINT: NW to include walks for the Festival in April 2022 on the winter programme.

- **Mini break (BW)**

With the cancellation of the Lake District holiday, BW felt the best plan, given the lack of time to recce a mini break in Pembrokeshire this year, was to work with Arthur C and augment the proposed October break in Falmouth, arranged as a bid

to complete more sections of the SWCP. This would aim at making it more inclusive with a number of shorter walks available to attract a wider range of walkers.

ACTION POINT: BW to liaise with Arthur C

- **Social**

Xmas lunch 2021 is booked at the Dainton Golf Club for 12.30 Friday 10 December. The Orangery is a private room and can seat 40 in 5 tables of 8. VR outlined the cost and payment and booking procedure she preferred. VR is working with Jackie M who has again kindly agreed to do the flyers. Members of the social committee will promote the event on regular walks and it will also be publicized on the website. No reservations will be accepted on the website. The £10 deposit is non refundable.

Again the question of informing members via MailChimp was raised but DW insisted that this channel is only to be used for notification of the AGMs.

ACTION POINTS: VR to distribute flyers. One to come to TS so it can be posted on the website.

DW to highlight the restrictions imposed on us through the GDPR rules when she reports to members at the AGM. Some may be unaware of the limitations imposed on us by their choices.

PJ is the lead person on the Fish and Chip Supper at Rockfish in Brixham in February 2022. This is to be in the separate room and she is arranging entertainment in the form of sea shanties.

PJ is also organizing the Ceilidh in St Georges Hall, Goodrington on Friday 13 May 2022 No hot meal can be offered but snacks will be available.

VR flagged the Mindfulness and Nature walk at The Glade in Dartington. This will be a Bring Your Own supper with a 'mindful', silent walk.

JE has registered interest with the Met Office but as yet no tours are being booked.

An alternative event to the Met Office is a visit to Plymouth Gin Distillery.

All agreed how good it would be to get our social activities going again!

- **SWCP project; Lundy trip (TS) October week**

According to Arthur C one quarter of the route has been completed. With the longer summer days ending, the day trips are now tipping the balance of what can be achieved safely on day trips. Therefore, the group had decided the best way to tick off some more sections in Cornwall was to spend a few days in Falmouth. The dates: Mon 18 to Fri 22 October. The aim is to be as inclusive as possible though the walks will be focused on the SWCP.

The trip to Lundy is being considered again for April, possibly May 2022

This needs coordinating with the walks programme as three days away could impact on attendance at scheduled walks.

ACTION POINTS: TS to liaise with the Shore Office to arrange this trip

TS to liaise with NW for dates and scheduling

- **U3A 28 October 2021**

EE reminded us that we have been asked to speak to U3A Totnes. TS and EE agreed they would collaborate on this.

ACTION POINT: TS and EE to devise a talk aimed at promoting Rambling and SDR

5. Website review (JF)

JF pointed out the need for ongoing review and updating of a website. He has some stylistic changes he would like to effect. Questions were raised about the style, functionality and overall relevance and effectiveness of the site. JF feels the mapping is excellent and it does fulfil the need for certain information to be conveyed. Members deplored the 'clunkiness' of elements such as Flickr

It was felt best to have a sub-group working on the changes needed. Karen H was co-opted on to this.

ACTION POINT: a sub-group comprising EE, JF, KH and BW to report back to committee at the meeting in January 2022

6. Don't Lose Your Way (DLYW) update (BW)

BW reported that a certain amount of categorization had been achieved in a task he described as Herculean. Those involved are awaiting guidance as to how to access national archives to move forward.

John Musgrave Heritage Trail. BW has edited the whole text on the website, filling in more detail, for instance, adding distances. TS remarked this was really helpful as a number of calls received suggested this was needed. BW plus his able and patient assistant NW continues his great work with wood and shovel to see to 'minor' repairs.

7. AOB

CB flagged the fact that we are approaching the end of the financial year so expenses claims should be submitted for settlement.

PJ asked if we were happy to keep sending cards as appropriate. Only one party was less than pleased! It was agreed this was part of our care in looking after our members' well-being.

EE highlighted the vacancies at Area Council

8 Date of next meeting

Tuesday 12 October – a meeting primarily to check that all is in place for the AGM

Venue: The Atrium unless otherwise notified.

VR gave apologies in advance.