

Minutes of the Committee Meeting Wed 17 April 2019

Welcome (and apologies)

Apologies received: PJ, NW, BW

1. Minutes of the last meeting

Actions points had been covered, but see below. The minutes were signed as a true record of the meeting.

2. Matters arising* (call expected 7.15 from BW regarding PA system)

BW called in regarding the public address issue. He had researched options and come up with a waistband amplifier which seemed to fit the bill. Various models are available on the Amazon link. Committee had a brief look and checked reviews which, though few in number, were positive. It was agreed by all to purchase the dearer model. BW had suggested using some JMHT legacy monies and CB felt this was acceptable.

3. Update on Deer Park and the John Musgrave Heritage Trail

VR, BW, EE and TS had undertaken a thorough recce of the alternative routes for this section of the John Musgrave Trail with due regard to the safety of each crossing. BW had been most careful to assess each according to the time a walker would have to see oncoming vehicles. All were confident that the preferred route would offer a much higher degree of safety.

BW had followed the recce promptly and submitted a full report to Devon CC who have acted far less swiftly. Despite enquiries from EE no reply has been received.

BW called in to the meeting and was able to participate on speakerphone. *The record of the conversation is minuted under item 6 Lost Ways.*

4. Holidays and walking events

a. 2019 Greece (CB)

CB has collected money for the coach to Bristol airport. 2 people will be going direct which leaves a shortfall of £60. We are permitted now to draw on commission monies from Ramblers Holidays for general expenses and so this can be covered.

CB hopes now that all participants have been reassured about the luggage allowance though one member seems not to have received the message from Steve.

The Plymouth group wanted to meet us airside but since we are travelling as a group this is not practical.

Steve is going to register everyone on line so they can then print their boarding passes. TS offered to help those who are unable to print, go to a public library, find a friend or otherwise. CB to chase if need be so we feel confident we can access boarding passes in good time.

b. Short break to Cornwall (BW)

By phone: BW has 6 parties already. As the mini break is not dependent on numbers this will go ahead as planned.

c. Lake District 2020 (EE)

There are a few members pressing for information about this holiday. EE reported he had had nothing formal to confirm but an email from Diane Millman of Grey Cars assured that we are booked in to the Riverside Hotel in Kendal and the dates are Sunday 6 September to Sat 12 Sept 2020. This gives us 5 nights. EE envisages four days of walking with Wednesday as a rest day. He wants to offer both long and short walks to broaden the appeal and include as many members as possible. Recce was discussed and offers to man a team were made.

5. Chairman's report and feedback from General Council 2019

EE went over the key issues as reported. He was very positive about the General Council and came away feeling that Ramblers was in safe hands with a young and enthusiastic team headed by a very capable CEO.

EE's report itself generated some discussion around marketing and recruitment, image and perceptions, and reaching target groups. The onerous issue of GDPR was also aired and the new guidance summarized by EE. It was agreed as a next step that all committee members should read the new, more concise guidance and that pathway for these documents are: Ramblers.org.uk, Volunteer Zone, Support and Development, Volunteer Toolkits, Recruiting and Retaining Members Toolkit, Membership Secretary Toolkit, GDPR.

It was suggested that we read some of the documents brought back by EE and consider what steps we would like to take as a group to support the organization.

6. Lost Ways

BW explained to committee that Public Rights of Way (PROWs) are determined by the Definitive Map. He had been told not to go by the online version which is not wholly representative. He was advised to make copies of the Definitive Map instead to check for Lost Ways.

EE updated committee on the concern raised by Keith P about the 'green dot' paths which he felt is a cause that could be taken on by Ramblers. KP is willing to act as consultant if necessary as he knows the history of these designated paths. Keith had written to Jack Cornish who is Project Manager for this initiative and Jack will put us in touch with a group in Cornwall who are also working on this. EE had brought back an informative brochure about the Don't Lose Your Way project (DLYW).

EE is keen to support this project. The leaflet he brought back from General Council clarified the aims and tactics.

7. AOB

- BW asked if we wanted to do the survey again this year. It was agreed that every other year would be more manageable and effective.
- EE raised several questions about Facebook. If a closed group, why were non SDR members able to join in the forum? JF explained the nature of the 'closed group', pointing out that it was not restricted to SDR members.
- Training: offers of free sessions on First Aid, in conjunction with St John Ambulance, and on Navigation have been extended from Central Office. It was felt that we had covered the First Aid needs for the time being, but we should express an interest in the sessions so that we are able to offer in future.
- Flickr: it was felt that this was slow and not as easy to use as hoped and Facebook was much more straightforward. JF agreed.
- Website: EE felt some editing was necessary to keep it current. JF explained how the News section worked but agreed some updating would be good. All agreed the website should be kept more up to date with News. JF reminded committee to alert him to issues regarding the website as he is not routinely checking it.

- JE asked if we were expected to risk assess our activities. A discussion ensued in which it was agreed we all assiduously assess all our activities, but we do not formally commit these assessments to paper.
- VR asked if we could schedule committee meetings in a morning rather than an evening. It proved impossible, however, to find a day when everyone was free! It was agreed we had to stick to the format which all could manage at least most of the time!

8. Date of next meeting

Wednesday 10 July at The Redcliffe 6.30 for 7pm (booked and confirmed with Tina at the Redcliffe)

ACTION POINTS

BW to purchase the waistband amplifier and liaise with CB for funding. (Matters Arising)

CB to make sure information regarding boarding passes comes in good time and to pursue if nothing heard by Friday 26 April (item 4a)

TS to offer assistance to those who feel they are unable to print their own boarding pass. (4a)

EE to put date for Lake District holiday termed as 'proposed date' on website. (4c)

EE to ask BW if he can do a flyer once we have firm information (4c)

ALL to review the new, briefer guidance on Data Protection to check for compliance and workability (5)

BW to obtain copies of The Definitive Map to assess the extent of the 'green dot' network (item 6)

TS to check on the training offers from Central (7)

JF to take up the matter of Flickr with Mat at Binary Integration to see if it can become more streamlined (7)

EE to refresh the website News section (7)

TS/EE to check on guidance for risk assessments (7)