

Ramblers Sheffield 40's Walking Group

Minutes of Committee Meeting

The Fat Cat, Sheffield
November 13th 2017
7.30pm

Present - Wayne Grounsell, Chairman. Emma Myers, Group & Membership Secretary. Jill Brogden, Treasurer. Tracey Lyne, Socials and Weekends Away Co-ordinator. Julie Sweeting, Walks Co-ordinator. Jez Kenyon, Website Editor

Apologies: None

Chair welcomed all to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He welcomed Julie to her first committee meeting as the new Walks Co-ordinator and thanked her for taking the role over from Martin who stepped down last month.

1. Minutes of the last committee meeting of September 6th 2017

Proposed by Wayne as a true record of the meeting and seconded by Jill.

2. Matters arising not on the agenda

None

3. Chairman's Report

i) Constitution

Accepted by the Group members at October's AGM without comment.

ii) Area Meeting Report Back – Walking with Vanessa Griffiths CEO

A walk was held on October 25th in the Peak District attended by Vanessa, Richard and Diane (the Southern and Northern Area Support Officers) and several members of Ramblers Groups within SYNED Area. Wayne, Jez, Bev and Peter Robinson represented SWG40s. The aim of the get together was to discuss various Ramblers issues and provide feedback on the same from members to Head Office. A positive, successful and worthwhile day all round. It is encouraging to see the views and aims of the general membership and those of Head Office starting to converge after a period where the two seemed to be heading in different directions.

iii) Culture Within The Members

The issues raised and discussed at the previous meeting were reiterated for Julie's benefit as new Walks Co-ordinator. Martin has sent an email out to all members reminding everyone of some relevant points regarding walk etiquette etc. It was decided that no further correspondence on this matter will be issued to members. This issue will be managed going forward by Julie and the individual walk leaders.

iv) AGM and Area AGM

Our AGM went well. Wayne thanked all committee members for their individual reports.

Next year's Area AGM is on January 27th and is to be hosted by Rotherham. Jez will put the details on the walk calendar and on the front page of the website and Wayne will mention the details in his Christmas 'Ramblin'.

v) Walks Co-ordinator

Julie has now taken over the role from Martin. She indicated she is planning on following in Martin's footsteps and does not anticipate the need for any huge changes in the foreseeable future.

4. Secretary's Report

All membership records are up to date. We currently have 240 active members.

Emma reiterated a concern previously expressed that new faces may be walking with us regularly without joining the Ramblers. A couple of such incidents have recently been uncovered and had to be addressed with the individuals concerned. Emma will be attending the upcoming Walk Leaders' meeting and Julie will put the issue on the agenda to see how we might ensure new walkers join after their initial 'three free'.

It was suggested one problem might be that when non-members are accepted on to our Facebook Group they think they have joined the Group itself. Jez will alter the link from the Facebook to the website so that it goes to the home page not the walks calendar.

5. Treasurer's Report

i) Statement of Current Financial Status

Current account balance £577.

The cost of the calendars is £210 and can be paid from Ramblers funds as both our logo and the Ramblers logo are displayed on the calendar thus we are promoting the aims of both. The rest of our Ramblers funds will remain in the account until they are required. This year's allocation will be requested when it is required.

Julie asked if Ramblers funds could be used to pay for a Group subscription to the navigation app 'GB and Parks' which she felt would be very useful for walk leaders. She will raise the issue for discussion at the upcoming Walk Leaders' meeting.

ii) Financial Outcomes of Group Events

Anniversary Meal – 42 members attended with surplus funds of £47 after everything paid for.

Christmas Meal – 15 members booked on so far. £100 deposit paid. The cost of the meal is being fully charged to the members so the event will break even.

Christmas Party – Only three booked on so far but Tracey has just sent out an email reminding all members of the event and expects more will respond in the coming weeks.

Jill asked Tracey for costings for both Christmas events and reminded everyone that costings for all proposed events need to be submitted and agreed by the committee before the event is publicised.

iii) Jim Conibear's Concerns

Jim had emailed the committee to raise a concern that at the recent AGM the group's formal 2017 Accounts were not available in balance sheet format to be presented to the members to consider and adopt before their subsequent submission to Area in due course.

The accounts are now ready and will be put on the website shortly.

Wayne will respond to Jim's email accordingly and will confirm that in line with the new constitution the accounts will be presented at the AGM next year in the balance sheet format.

6. Walk Co-ordinator's Report

Julie has arranged a Walk Leaders' meeting for November 27th and confirmed with the committee that at present only walk leaders will be invited to such meetings although in future the meetings may be opened up to all members to try and encourage new leaders to come forward. Again, at present, the minutes of the Walk Leaders' meetings will be circulated only to walk leaders.

There are 22 gaps in the Walk Calendar in the next twelve weeks but ten of these are over Christmas and New Year where a date has been opened up nearly every day of the festive period. Julie is confident these will be filled nearer the time.

There have been 28 led walks since the last meeting on September 6th. Nine walk reports are still outstanding and this is an issue Julie will discuss at the Walk Leaders' meeting.

A couple of ideas to encourage new walk leaders were reminding all of the various databases of walks that are available and also getting in touch with members who used to walk lead but haven't done so for a while.

7. Social and Weekends Away Co-ordinator's Report

The anniversary walks and meal were a huge success with a good turnout and lots of positive feedback. Mike Dibb's grid finder templates were distributed to all present and there are plenty left so they will be given to walk leaders to hand out on walks.

The calendars will be ready mid November. One will be given to everyone who came on the anniversary walks and meal and the rest will be distributed at the Christmas events.

There is a New Members Night planned for November 17th, the Christmas Meal is on December 3rd with two walks planned beforehand, one long, one short and the Christmas Party is on December 17th.

A weekend in Keswick is planned for June 2018.

9. Web Editor's Report

The password for the Group email account was changed.

11. Further Items for Discussion

None

12. Any Other Business

None

13. Date of Next Meeting

January 15th at the Fat Cat, 7.30 pm.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.