

## **Ramblers Sheffield 40's Walking Group**

### **Minutes of Committee Meeting**

The Fat Cat, Sheffield  
October 19<sup>th</sup> 2015  
7.30pm

Present - Wayne Grounsell, Chairman. Emma Myers, Group Secretary. Jill Brogden, Treasurer. Martin Wistow, Walks Co-ordinator. Alan Plimmer, Membership Secretary. Jez Kenyon, Website Editor.

Apologies: None

Chair welcomed all to the first meeting of the new committee and thanked everyone for attending

#### **1. Minutes of the last committee meeting of September 10<sup>th</sup> 2015 - approved.**

Minutes of the AGM October 7<sup>th</sup> 2015 are awaiting submission.

#### **2. Matters arising not on the agenda**

None

#### **3. Chairman's Report**

Wayne confirmed the handover of the position of Chairman from Raj with no outstanding issues. One concern - no constitution appears to be in place at present and there is no evidence of the group ever having had one. Wayne will contact the 20s/30s group (from where our group originated back in 2007) to see if they can help but if not will put one together to satisfy the requirements of the Ramblers.

#### **4. Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report. Emma is new to the position and advised she had been away on holiday since being appointed at the AGM. She will liaise with Wayne to clarify her role and responsibilities.

#### **5. Treasurer's Report**

##### a) Statement of current financial status

Jill has produced the annual accounts for the period October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 to September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015 and they are awaiting sign off by the auditors.

##### b) Financial outcomes of Group events

One weekend away since last meeting – Llanberis weekend. 22 people attended at £40 each. Cost of meal on Saturday night £5 each. Overall profit on weekend of £8.67.

A successful weekend and all thanked Jill for organising but agreed that having put this event on for the past three years it would not be repeated next year but would be replaced with something different.

## **6. Walk Co-ordinator's Report**

Martin confirmed he had received five reports from the six walks undertaken since his appointment at the AGM and was chasing the sixth one. No incidents to report on any of the walks. As well as an incident log Martin is now keeping a detailed log of numbers of walkers on each walk to build up a picture of walk profiles and popularity. Wayne asked Martin to ensure he chases up walk leaders for their reports. It was agreed that only numbers of walk attendees were required, not names unless a walker was involved in an incident when his/her name would be required.

Key issues at present are insufficient numbers of walk leaders resulting in not enough walks on the programme and also a lack of forward planning of the walk programme.

Solutions put forward

- Martin to arrange regular walk leaders' meetings at various locations to put together an ongoing comprehensive forward walk planner
- Asking walk leaders to do more walks each rather than relying on two or three leaders to keep the programme going
- A future 'walk leaders' walk followed by a 'thank you' meal
- A cut off date each week for submission of a walk that weekend.
- Martin and Jez discussed a walk template for leaders to download and complete to make walk submission easier. Jez will take this idea forward and also look at putting on the website a link to the database of existing Ramblers walks to help existing leaders and encourage new
- Martin to host 'mentoring' walks to encourage new walk leaders. This might also include inviting interested people upfront to walk with him on his regular walks for coaching in map reading skills etc.
- Encouraging people to put on a walk they are familiar with already
- Wayne suggested to Martin putting the idea of walk leading out to the members, getting together all those potentially interested to discuss their issues and concerns and for Martin then to report back to the committee
- Jez suggested more shorter walks would encourage new members

## **7. Social Co-ordinator's Report**

No-one is in position at present. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> Tracy is hosting a meeting of potential social volunteers from the AGM and will report back to Wayne after the meeting. Jill suggested that all members be emailed asking for more such volunteers as most members were not at the AGM.

Wayne suggested new social volunteers need to know how socials are arranged and in addition Jez put forward the idea of a 'socials' template for inputting events to the website, similar to the walk template which Martin had suggested.

Jill asked for more organisation and liaison with herself regarding payments into the account for social events as lately there have been several credits to the account relating to such events which have taken quite a bit of sorting out as Jill had not been advised or involved in the same.

Jean (the previous Social Secretary) is to carry on organising this year's Christmas meal and Jill agreed to forward to her any emails relating to this which are received into the Group's Hotmail account.

#### **8. Weekend's Away Co-ordinator's Report**

Jill advised three weekends away are planned - Middleham, March 25<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup> 2016, Keswick May, 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2016 and one for New Year 2017 which will not be advertised until after New Year 2016 to avoid any confusion.

One will be planned for summer 2016 (Jill will have a look at Cornwall or another coastal option avoiding the school holidays) and one for September 2016 (Alan and Jude will look into Buttermere).

Jill indicated any other suggestions would be welcome.

#### **9. Web Editor's Report**

Jill asked Jez if it would be possible to refresh the website as it has not been updated for some time. Jez will look into this and suggested just one calendar with all walks/socials/weekends on. Some discussion was held about getting rid of the message board but the general consensus was that it could be useful if it was used more and that we should encourage and promote usage ourselves.

#### **10. Membership Report**

Alan indicated no issues to report. The issue regarding the two 'non-members' attending the Christmas meal has been satisfactorily resolved.

#### **11. Further Items for Discussion**

None.

#### **12. Any Other Business**

Jez suggested the appointment of a Footpath Secretary and had someone in mind. All agreed so Jez will approach the person concerned and report back. If the appointment goes ahead it will be decided whether to elect the appointee to the committee.

Wayne suggested that walk leaders should be encouraged to carry out a Path Watch Report on their walks and Jez said that we should also encourage generally use of the Path Watch app which is the most effective and immediate way of reporting such issues.

#### **13. Date of Next Meeting**

January 18<sup>th</sup> 2016. Venue to be advised.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.