



<p>the destroying of the beautiful well walked footpaths with the views down the estuary. The Micheldean solar panel application refusal above Vantage Point is also imminent on Appeal. Apart from being very visual from Plump Hill, the Gloucestershire Way and surrounding areas, the application proposes fencing in the footpaths which we have objected to as they invariably become over grown, unpleasant and/or impassable. Sheila went on to report she had attended another Area Footpaths Secretaries' meeting at which a plan of action was agreed to try to clarify relationships with AMEY. They also agreed that Area Countryside Officer should be the liaison person with the likes of CPRE rather than Footpath Secretaries and additionally had discussed decision taking at Group level on footpath matters, calling for support from Area on their decisions.</p> <p>The next FOD footpath meeting will be at Lydney on Tues 17<sup>th</sup> Feb at 10am and all are welcome just to gain some understanding of this work. Sheila considered this essential for the continuation of the FOD group as much of the knowledge of footpath work is being lost through retirement. It was noted that a response from The Ramblers to any planning application held sway and we needed to preserve this.</p>	
<p><b>8. Membership Secretary's report:</b> Currently there are 221 members, 2 of which are reinstated members, with approximately two thirds of our membership having provided an email address. Babs wished to remind all members to let her have any changes in circumstances so that her data base remains accurate. Babs will provide an entry to this effect for the next newsletter.</p>	Babs Jones
<p><b>9. Publicity Officer's report:</b> The joint walk with Walking for Health was a successful event with 36 walkers taking part. Barbara has sent information about our New Years day walk to their coordinator. Barbara hoped some of our members might join a Walk for Health led walk in the future in order to continue to foster links between us.</p>	
<p><b>10. Webmaster's report:</b> Malcolm had no issues to bring to the committee's attention.</p>	
<p><b>11. Non-Officer members' reports:</b> Sheila reported that she would be attending the Area AGM on 6<sup>th</sup> December.</p>	
<p><b>12. Publication of minutes on website:</b> It was agreed to publish minutes on the website. On occasion there may be an item which should remain confidential; this would be infrequent and exceptional. In these circumstances the Secretary will record a separate minute for that item.</p>	Jackie Huck Malcolm Shergold
<p><b>13. Walk leaders support and training:</b> In recognition of the importance of walk leaders in ensuring our group continues to have an active and interesting programme, Mike will canvass leaders regarding their support and training needs. He will report back at the next meeting.</p>	Mike Ingleby
<p><b>14. Footpath maintenance and volunteering:</b> Mike reported that Rod Goodman is prepared to continue to coordinate matters regarding footpath maintenance until a permanent replacement comes forward, however he is no longer able to carry out remedial work. FoD Ramblers have agreed to monitor Highmeadow, Soudley Circles and Beechenhurst Trails which involves ensuring appropriate waymarks are in place and the Trails are obstacle free (small obstacles may be cleared however anything major should be reported to the Forestry Commission). It was agreed that walks in "Exploring Historical Dean" should also be regularly monitored and this could be achieved by having at least one of the walks per programme on a rolling basis. Maurice will monitor this.</p> <p>It was noted that Irene, John S, Joan and David regularly monitored our leafleted trails and that Ian, John B, Derek, Maurice, Pete and Adrian had also undertaken maintenance work. Some or all of whom may be willing to continue and form a body of volunteers from which Rod could draw. Mike will have further discussions with Rod to agree ongoing arrangements.</p> <p>Mike raised the issue of insurance. Civil Liability and Personal Accident Insurance is available through The Ramblers subscription for leaders and members of working parties provided activities form part of our published programme. For working parties, names, dates of birth and membership numbers (or postcode) for each participant must be notified to Central Office and, additionally, participants must be under 80 years old. It was agreed to add a new category of "working party" on the website programme. Malcolm agreed to investigate how historical searches of old programmes could be undertaken by nominated members in the event of a query.</p> <p>It was formally reported that Rod Goodman had received confirmation that the Upper Forge</p>	Maurice Cullis  Mike Ingleby  Malcolm Shergold  Barbara Fisher

<p>footbridge had now been dedicated as a footpath. It was agreed for this significant achievement to be celebrated with a formal inauguration ceremony. Barbara would organise the inauguration ceremony including invitations and publicity. Arrangements for this event will be further discussed at the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>15. Promotion and community involvement:</b> Mike reported that Kate Wyatt (Community Engagement Officer, FoDDC) had contacted him about a "Walkers are Welcome" initiative and he had arranged to meet her in the New Year. The committee considered it appropriate for the Chair to learn more about this initiative since it seemed to fall within our overall objective of promoting walking. Barbara asked to be added to Kate Wyatt's circulation list.</p> <p>There followed a general discussion about how to achieve better links with our communities and it was suggested we explore the potential to link some walks in with Lydney Festival in 2016. In the meantime there was support for considering a mini walking festival in 2015 and as a first step, Barbara agreed to find out likely advertising costs.</p> <p>In terms of general awareness raising of our programme, Barbara would consider the level of budget she would need in order to promote two walks per programme in the local press and maybe to submit quarterly walk related articles. Barbara will report back to the next meeting for committee consideration.</p>	<p>Mike Ingleby</p> <p>Mike Ingleby</p> <p>Barbara Fisher</p> <p>Barbara Fisher</p>
<p><b>16. Constitutional matters:</b> The "Vision" and Governance" documents issued for consultation from Central Office were discussed in some detail and it was agreed the most appropriate way forward for responses would be from individuals rather than the committee.</p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>17. A.O.B:</b> David confirmed he would be picking up responsibility for walk leaflets from Rod Goodman. He would also discuss with Rod arrangements for printing the programme when they meet next week.</p>	<p>David Pollard</p>
<p><b>18. Date of next meeting:</b> Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015 at 7.00pm</p>	