

FOREST OF DEAN RAMBLERS

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8th OCTOBER 2015

PRESENT: Mike Ingleby (Chair), Jackie Huck (Secretary), David Pollard (Treasurer), Maurice Cullis (Walks Co-ordinator), Malcolm Shergold (Webmaster), Babs Jones (Membership Secretary), Ian Walding, and Pam Cullis.

APOLOGIES: Barbara Fisher (Publicity Secretary), John Slater – John S - (Footpaths Officer) and John Bevan – John B

Mike thanked Maurice and Pam for hosting the meeting.

| AGENDA ITEM: | ACTION: |
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| <p>1. Minutes of meeting on 6th May 2015: agreed and signed as an accurate record.</p> | <p>Jackie Huck to send to Malcolm Shergold for publication on the website.</p> |
| <p>2. Matters Arising:</p> <p>Activities evening: had been a successful event. Many had signed up for The Big Path Watch despite no clear timetable from CO meaning the timing of the meeting had not been optimal. John S is monitoring uptake across our patch. Ordering a batch of emergency information key rings would not be viable due to insufficient interest shown.</p> <p>Walks Archive: is now up and running and Mike expressed his thanks to Malcolm for setting up this useful addition to our website.</p> <p>Bridge Inauguration: Mike formally reported on the success of this event and how it had rightly reflected well on the work of our group, especially those directly involved in the development and delivery of this project. Mike had presented Bob Berryman (Lydney Mayor) and Kate Ashbrook (President, Ramblers) with copies of "Exploring Historic Dean". Mike will contact Barbara to express the committee's thanks for all her hard work in arranging the day. Babs will put together a photo book of all the photographs she took on the day.</p> <p>Adoption of Upper Forge Bridge: Mike confirmed he had now received signed certificates of compliance which he will now pass onto Jackie.</p> <p>Leaflets: The Soudley Circles leaflet has been reprinted and these will be given to Barbara via Babs.</p> <p>Facebook: this was considered a matter for the next committee to develop.</p> <p>Other matters arising would be covered under later agenda items.</p> | <p>Mike Ingleby to contact Barbara Fisher</p> <p>Babs Jones to compile a photo book</p> <p>Mike Ingleby to pass certificates to Jackie Huck</p> <p>Babs Jones to deliver leaflets to Barbara Fisher</p> |
| <p>3. Chair's report:</p> <p>Amey - Volunteers' Day: Mike and John S had attended this event held in Northleach. Overall it had been useful and had also provided an opportunity for networking with other footpath officers. Richard Holmes, Cirencester Group, had been particularly helpful and supportive assisting Mike and John S to understand more about Rights of Way issues.</p> <p>MonDean Walking Festival: had gone well although timing of adverts meant fewer people than hoped had taken part. Nevertheless several copies of "Exploring Historic Dean" had been sold and our group had also gained a new member. Our walk leaders had enjoyed the experience learning more about dealing with "unknown" walkers as paying guests and the importance of having the support of an assistant leader. Mike reported he is keen for our group to be involved in the 2016 event however access to grants may be problematic due to cross border funding constraints. Jenny Robbins is now representing our group on the walking festival's committee.</p> | |

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| <p>Lake District Holiday: Mike reported on a very successful holiday although it had taken a lot of work and effort to fill the accommodation. 13 attended, 8 of whom were Forest of Dean members, and a further 3 have since joined our group (2 new to Ramblers and one transfer). Only 3 had also been on the Dunster holiday. Taking this experience into account, Mike felt future holidays would not be self-catering and one holiday per year rather than 2.</p> <p>There were a number of other matters for discussion which the Chair would raise under later agenda items.</p> | |
| <p>4. Secretary's report: nothing to report.</p> | |
| <p>5. Treasurer's report:</p> <p>David provided current balances the two accounts held. The Unity Trust account stands at £355.19 with central funding of £301 expected. It had cost some £300 to run the group over the past year (including a one-off spend of £100 on reusable publicity materials) demonstrating the group is financially stable.</p> <p>The Coventry Building Society account stands at £1567.46 relating to Publications and Projects and £107.60 relating to PayPal giving a total of £1675.06. The main expenditure against this account has been the reprint of "Exploring Historic Dean" costing £2700.</p> <p>David reported that he and Ronnie Walker will be meeting on 23rd October to undertake an audit as part of end of year requirements. Also David had completed the end of year report for Area Council using previous year's template.</p> | |
| <p>6. Walk Coordinator's report:</p> <p>The next programme will close by the end of October and currently has 30 walks. It is expected this number will rise to 32 or 33. Maurice reported that November had a full programme and both December and January had a reasonable number. Although February had some gaps, overall the programme was acceptable for the winter period.</p> | |
| <p>7. Footpath Secretary's report:</p> <p>John S has recently taken on this role and since he was unavailable to attend he will report at the next meeting.</p> | |
| <p>8. Membership Secretary's report:</p> <p>Membership stands at 230 which is the highest for some time. Since the start of this year 9 members have transferred from other groups. The majority of members receive information via email with only 55 by post therefore it was agreed to reduce printed copies of programmes and newsletters to 65. It was further agreed as inappropriate to contact lapsed members at local level since contact is already made by CO. Babs' intention to relocate was noted together with her request to seek a new membership secretary who would be willing to shadow her with a view of taking over the role.</p> | |
| <p>9. Publicity Officer's report: no report available</p> | |
| <p>10. Webmaster's report: nothing to report.</p> | |
| <p>11. Non-Officer members' reports:</p> <p>Pam confirmed she had booked the Catholic Hall, Coleford, on 6th November 2015 for the AGM. Ray</p> | |

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| <p>Chaney from Area Council had been informed of the date.</p> | |
| <p>12. Book and Leaflet sales and distribution:</p> <p>The systems and processes needed to support the distribution and sales of Exploring Historic Dean and our walk leaflets had now become clearer following the experience of recent sales. Mike and David will meet to progress this. Malcolm reported the sale of 2 hard copies of Exploring Historic Dean from internet requests and he is considering the potential for a mail shot to all who had either expressed interest or made previous purchases.</p> | <p>Mike Ingleby and David Pollard to set up systems to support sales of book and leaflets.</p> <p>Malcolm Shergold to consider a mail shot.</p> |
| <p>13. Footpath matters:</p> <p>During the MonDean Walking Festival, Mike had encountered difficulties on part of the Gloucestershire Way near Hewelsfield which was severely overgrown with brambles being a particular problem. Mike had discussed clearing the route with Forestry Commission (the landowner) who will not clear the obstruction nor allow us to clear it using strimmers therefore the matter could not be progressed.</p> | |
| <p>14. Promotion and community involvement:</p> <p>This item had been covered under earlier reports relating to MonDean Walking Festival.</p> | |
| <p>15. Arrangements for AGM:</p> <p>It was agreed for Babs to send copies of the agenda and supporting papers to members via email ahead of the AGM and to have a few hard copies available at the meeting. Jackie and Pam will arrange the provision of hot drinks and arrange the room as needed. David is not available to attend but will provide his financial report and balance sheet.</p> | <p>Jackie Huck to arrange for agenda to be agreed by Mike Ingleby and forward same to Babs Jones for distribution.</p> <p>David Pollard to send his financial reports to Mike Ingleby</p> |
| <p>16. AOB:</p> <p>Changes to walks: Malcolm raised the issue of guidance to leaders in the event of last minute cancellation of a programmed walk. It was agreed this would likely only be in exceptional circumstances however guidance on "what to do if...." will be posted under the leaders section of the website. Jackie will draft this guidance based on the points discussed.</p> <p>Christmas lunch: It was suggested that The Orepool might provide a suitable venue for lunch preceded by a choice of two morning walks. Mike will investigate.</p> | <p>Jackie Huck to draft guidance and liaise with relevant members before posting.</p> <p>Mike Ingleby to consider the suitability of The Orepool for a Christmas lunch.</p> |
| <p>17. Date of next meeting: This would be decided after the AGM by the new committee.</p> | |