

FOREST OF DEAN RAMBLERS

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10th MAY 2016

PRESENT: Pete Robbins (Chair), Jackie Huck (Secretary), Maurice Cullis (Walks Co-ordinator), Babs Jones (Membership Secretary), Ian Walding, Pam Cullis, John Bevan and Ronnie Walker.

APOLOGIES: David Pollard (Treasurer), Malcolm Shergold (Webmaster)

At the start of the meeting Pete Robbins was formally co-opted onto the committee.

Committee members thanked Maurice and Pam for hosting the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM:	ACTION:
<p>1. Resignation of Chair and election of new Chair: The meeting received Mike Ingleby's resignation as Chair. Members expressed their thanks to Mike for his achievements as Chair noting he had successfully raised the profile of our group locally and been instrumental in developing our participation in the newly named MonDean Walking Festival. Jackie will write to Mike expressing the committee's thanks and also send a suitable Newsletter insert to Ronnie.</p> <p>Pete Robbins was nominated to take the Chair by Jackie, seconded by Ian and was voted in unanimously. Pete accepted this role on an interim basis until the next AGM.</p>	<p>Jackie Huck to write to Mike Ingleby and send newsletter insert to Ronnie Walker</p>
<p>2. Minutes of meeting on 28th January 2016: agreed and signed as an accurate record.</p>	<p>Jackie Huck to send to Malcolm Shergold for publication on the website.</p>
<p>3. Matters Arising:</p> <p>It was confirmed that all actions listed in the minutes of the last meeting had been completed and that work on pulling together a photobook relating to the inauguration of the Upper Forge Bridge was still work in progress.</p>	
<p>4. Chair's report: There was no Chair's report on this occasion.</p>	
<p>5. Secretary's report.</p> <p>Jackie reported on a request received from Area to host their AGM on Saturday 10th December 2016. After a full discussion it was agreed that the committee was not in a position to resource the hosting of an AGM at a weekend, especially in December when most members had family commitments, however the group would offer to host an AGM on a weekday evening.</p> <p>Jackie raised the issue of leaders' insurance stating there was a requirement to formally report any incident to CO. It was agreed it was good practice to report incidents on the CO's proforma which should be send to the Secretary for necessary action. As part of CO's guidance on insurance matters, a check list for walk overs was available and the guidance also advised a "disclaimer" be placed at the top of all programmes regarding individuals' responsibilities when participating in walks. It was agreed that Jackie would provide Ronnie with a newsletter insert about these matters. She would also ask Malcolm to add the disclaimer to our walks programme on our website and set up links from the leaders section to the national website regarding insurance guidance.</p>	<p>Jackie Huck to email committee's decision to Ray Chaney</p> <p>Jackie Huck to send Ronnie Walker relevant newsletter inserts and contact Malcolm Shergold to arrange agreed additions to our website</p>
<p>6. Walk Coordinator's report:</p> <p>The next programme will close by mid June. It currently has 19 walks although Maurice expected this number to increase over the next four weeks. He would be encouraging shorter walks (which could be on the same day as longer walks) and calling for new leaders who could use walks from EHD book to get them started. Maurice expected a good and varied programme to be on offer.</p>	<p>Ronnie Walker to use the newsletter to encourage new leaders.</p>

<p>7. Treasurer's report:</p> <p>Prior to the meeting David had provided the current balances of the two accounts held. The Unity Trust account stands at £739.35 whilst the Coventry Building Society account stands at £1859.26. In addition the PayPal account totals £74.79. Major receipts into the Unity account have been £154.40 capitation payment from Area and £100 commission from rambles Holidays. There were £208 worth of EHD books invoiced but not yet paid and £59.50 relating to leaflets. David planned to publish a roundup of outstanding invoices at the end of June.</p> <p>David outlined his advice to the committee requesting a plan be drawn up for using funds for the benefit of the group and for publishing the sales of EHD. After a discussion it was agreed that an appropriate use of funds could include navigation training, first aid and repair/replacement of footpath maintenance equipment. Jackie would make enquiries about navigation courses and Maurice would review the equipment needs.</p>	<p>Jackie Huck to research navigation courses.</p> <p>Maurice Cullis to check footpath equipment/stocks.</p>
<p>8. Membership Secretary's report:</p> <p>Babs reported a current membership total of 217 with 2 new members, 7 lapsed and one transfer from another group. Membership levels now seemed to have stabilised following the closure of several local groups.</p>	
<p>9. Webmaster's report:</p> <p>Prior to the meeting Malcolm had stated he had nothing to report, confirming all was working well.</p>	
<p>10. Book and Leaflet Sales and Distribution:</p> <p>The process to support distribution and sales of Exploring Historic Dean (EHD) and walk leaflets was now in place. Thanks were expressed to John and Jean Sheraton, Carol Lambert and Barbara Fisher for taking on outlets. It was noted that volunteers were still needed for Beechenhurst Lodge and the new TIC in Coleford. Jackie will provide Ronnie with a suitable newsletter insert.</p>	<p>Jackie Huck to send Ronnie Walker a newsletter insert calling for volunteers.</p>
<p>11. MonDean Walking Festival:</p> <p>Mike Ingleby had provided confirmation he would continue to be our coordinator for the 2016 MonDean Walking Festival. We would be leading 9 walks as part of this programme.</p>	
<p>12. Footpath matters:</p> <p>Prior to the meeting Jackie had circulated a discussion paper outlining current footpath issues. The difficulties experienced in generating resources to support footpath was recognised and the committee agreed the following:</p> <p><u>Leafleted walks:</u> volunteers to "look after" the three trails had been confirmed and John B and Ian offered to join Irene for the Highmeadow trail. Chris Waseley had kindly offered to take on a coordinating role and Maurice would now collect the equipment from Rod Goodman and coordinate any working parties needed. More volunteers for the latter would be called for.</p> <p><u>EHD and reports of footpath problems:</u> it was agreed that access problems should be reported directly to GCC and that an appropriate link and advice would be added to our website.</p> <p><u>Planning applications involving footpaths:</u> the committee expressed their thanks to Richard Holmes (Area) for having oversight of this aspect of footpaths whilst we are without a footpaths officer. Also for members who had been willing to do site visits in their localities. However this was not a permanent</p>	<p>Jackie Huck to contact Chris Waseley to confirm list of volunteers and contact name with Forestry Commission.</p> <p>Malcolm to put advice and links to</p>

<p>solution and it was agreed to put a suitable newsletter item asking for more support in this area.</p>	<p>GCC on website. Jackie Huck to send Ronnie walker a newsletter insert.</p>
<p>13. AOB: Ronnie was thanked for his successful North Wales walks.</p> <p>The committee expressed thanks to Alan Fisher who had led a walk at one hour's notice.</p> <p>The date of the 2017 AGM was set as 4th November 2016</p>	<p>Pam Cullis to book the Catholic Hall in Coleford for the AGM</p>
<p>14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 13th September 2016 at 7.30pm</p>	