

FOREST OF DEAN RAMBLERS

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday 10th October 2017 at Yorkley Community Centre

PRESENT: Peter Robbins (Chair), David Pollard (Treasurer), Ian Walding (Walks Co-ordinator), Malcolm Shergold (Webmaster), John Baker (Footpath Officer), Maurice Cullis, Pam Cullis, John Bevan and Ronnie Walker (Newsletter Editor).

APOLOGIES: Jackie Huck (Secretary), Lynn Stockley (Membership Secretary)

AGENDA ITEM:	ACTION:
<p>1. Minutes of meeting on 23rd May 2017: agreed and signed as an accurate record.</p>	<p>Jackie to send to Malcolm for publication on the website.</p>
<p>2. Matters Arising:</p> <p>All outstanding actions from the previous meeting were confirmed as completed. There were no other matters arising not covered under later agenda items.</p>	
<p>3. Chair's report:</p> <p>Peter reported on his links with Area Vice Chair, Bernard, and confirmed that information about the Skipton Holiday in May 2018 has been circulated at Area level. He would give a fuller report on the holiday later in the agenda.</p> <p>The Christmas Lunch on 1st December will be preceded by a 5/6 mile leisurely walk lead by Jackie. There have been 27 bookings to date.</p> <p>Since this would be David's last meeting before stepping down as Treasurer at the AGM, Peter thanked him for all he had done as Treasurer and for the support this had been to the committee and to all members.</p>	
<p>4. Secretary's report.</p> <p>Prior to the meeting Jackie had provided a written report. Alongside her usual secretarial duties, she had established a link with the Forestry Commission regarding notification of forest operations impacting on PROWs. These were then posted onto the Website. She also thanked John for completing the role description for Footpaths Officer and offered her help to compile similar for Treasurer and Walks Coordinator. Jackie's report concluded by confirming all matters relating to Membership Secretary had been handed over to Lynn.</p>	
<p>5. Treasurer' report:</p> <p>The committee formally ratified previous email decisions to accept the 2017/18 budget of £293 and to forego the second half allocation for 2016/17.</p> <p>David reported that the Unity Trust account stands at £35.17 whilst the Coventry Building Society account stands at £3439.83. PayPal (online sales) stands at £168.65 which is held within the Coventry account.</p> <p>842 copies of EHD were in hand which, if counted as an asset, would equate to £2256.56.</p> <p>David confirmed he would be meeting on 25th October with Ronnie to audit the accounts ahead of the AGM.</p> <p>The committee considered and fully discussed ideas for use of the Book Fund (Coventry Building</p>	<p>David to send to Jackie a copy of the final accounts for distribution ahead of the AGM.</p>

<p>Society). The idea of erecting information boards relating to our 3 trails had been raised and Peter had contacted the Forestry Commission to gauge their support. Although the Forestry Commission were supportive their strict requirements regarding the style and format of such signs resulted in high costs. The committee felt this did not constitute value for money.</p> <p>The idea to set up a separate trust fund for the money was not considered to be a viable or appropriate option.</p> <p>Alan Fisher, supported by John Sheraton and Rod Goodman, had suggested a £500 donation to the Dean Forest Railway as a contribution to the repair and re-opening of St Mary's Bridge which formed a vital link to other footpaths in the area. The committee felt this was a good use of resources and agreed in principle to such a donation, however it was unclear whether a donation from one charity to another was permissible. David would contact the Area Treasurer to get clarification from Central Office.</p> <p>Similarly, in the event of a call for funding relating to the reopening of Stowfield Bridge, the committee considered a donation to be appropriate use of the Book Fund subject to the advice of CO and prevailing circumstances.</p>	<p>David to contact Area Treasurer for clarification on making a donation to DFR.</p>
<p>6. Walk Coordinator's report:</p> <p>Ian reported a total of 34 walks on the new programme which runs from November to February. Yet again the programme offers a good spread of walks across weekdays and over weekends offering a great range of walks overall. It was noted that no walks were planned during the Christmas week.</p> <p>The programme would be available in a printable format by the end of the week and would be sent to Lynn for appropriate action.</p>	<p>Printable version of programme to be sent to Lynn</p>
<p>7. Membership Secretary's report:</p> <p>Lynn was unable to attend the meeting however had provided a report. Membership as at 1st October 2017 stands at 204, the same as the previous report (1st April 2017) although there had been lapsed memberships and new members over this period.</p> <p>Lynn had also provided a paper outlining a proposal for a revised approach to handling printed newsletters and walks programmes for members not having emails. Following a recent tightening up of procedures by CO in relation to Data Protection, together with other logistical considerations, it was proposed for members who want printed copies of programmes and /or newsletters to send a SAE to Lynn who would then print off a copy on her home printer. Lynn proposed this to start from June 2018 to give members time to adjust to this change. After a full discussion it was agreed to support this proposal and to put a resolution to the AGM with the committee's recommendation to adopt.</p>	<p>Jackie to draft a resolution as part of the AGM papers.</p>
<p>8. Webmaster's report:</p> <p>Malcolm reported he has now stored the emails and attachments received via the Publicity email address. He was considering the best way of making these accessible for future use.</p> <p>The archive of previous walks was also discussed and it was requested walk leaders names be retained on archive details.</p> <p>Otherwise all was working well and he had nothing further to report.</p>	
<p>9. Footpath Officer's report:</p> <p>John Baker referred to his report for the period April to June 2017. There had been 3 footpath issues reported and all 3 were still on-going. These related to Thurston Place, Coleford, Yorkley Court Farm and Tidenham Quarry. Over this period AMEY had dealt with 134 footpath issues across the county and AMEY were now required to actively inspect 10% of allocated footpaths per year as part of their contract. John went on to report he had reviewed 42 FoD planning applications over the period, 4 of which had a direct impact on relevant local footpaths and he had consequently raised objections. In addition there had been 4 modification orders with only the one at Joyford</p>	

<p>having an objection.</p> <p>John's report also provided an update on the position regarding the Lower Lydbrook iron bridge. A local steering team had been set up to continue to apply pressure on GCC for a resolution.</p> <p>John proposed that walk leaders undertake an audit whilst doing walkovers involving PROWs and report any problems/issues to him. This would only apply to official footpaths in the Forest of Dean District. John would then report these through to GCC for action. He had a proforma for walk leaders to complete and would email this to relevant walk leaders ahead of their walk.</p> <p>Chris Wasley had provided a full audit of issues/problems relating to each of our three leafleted walks trails. This was a culmination of the hard work of those volunteering to look after these trails. Chris also listed works which had been referred to the Forestry Commission and had confirmed completion of them all. However there remained the question of addressing maintenance which fell to us. After a discussion it was agreed to concentrate in the first instance on repairing/replacing posts on the Highmeadow Trail.</p> <p>Jackie had offered to coordinate the replacement of way marks for Beechenhurst Trail and Soudley Circles provided she had a supply of appropriate discs. Ian agreed to order these in a similar format to those for Highmeadow and to check with Chris Wasley which waymarks are used for Soudley Circles. Jackie would action in the New Year.</p> <p>Jackie held the following stocks of walk leaflets:</p> <p>Beechenhurst trail: x 60</p> <p>Soudley Circles: x 297</p> <p>Highmeadow trail: x 147</p> <p>There were also supplies of leaflets held by John Sheraton and Ronnie.</p> <p>The current accuracy of these leaflets was discussed and it was suggested that each volunteer be asked whether they considered their trail leaflet remained accurate or if material updating was needed.</p>	<p>Ian to order discs for Beechenhurst and Soudley Circles.</p> <p>Jackie to organise replacement of discs where needed</p> <p>Jackie to ask walk monitors to review leaflet.</p>
<p>10. Proposed walking holiday, Skipton May 2018: Peter reported that 31 places had now been booked. There had been 6 cancellations, each losing their non-refundable deposits and a few additional booking had also been received. Overall the finances should balance however more booking would avert the need to charge a small supplement. Efforts would continue to advertise the holiday including to outside groups.</p>	
<p>11. 40th Anniversary of FoD Group:</p> <p>As previously agreed, Jackie would take things forward with Sue and Robin Warren and start the process in the New Year to gather names and contact details of previous members and to communicate our plans.</p>	<p>Jackie to liaise with Susan Warren</p>
<p>12. AGM arrangements: Jackie had confirmed that Yorkey Community Hall had been booked for Friday 10th November from 7pm to 10pm. Members had been notified of the AGM via the June and the current Newsletter and also via email. The agenda and supporting papers would be sent out via email week commencing 22nd October (subject to audited accounts being</p>	<p>Jackie to issue AGM papers to Lynn for email distribution to members and Jackie to arrange for a</p>

<p>available). There would be the usual "bring and share" supper with tea/coffee/juice supplied.</p> <p>Committee members willing to stand for a further year:</p> <p>Chair: Peter Robbins</p> <p>Treasurer: vacant. Ronnie Walker willing to be nominated and Alan Fisher was prepared to undertake the Auditor role</p> <p>Secretary: Jackie Huck</p> <p>Membership Secretary: Lynn Stockley willing to be nominated</p> <p>Walks Co-ordinator: Ian Walding</p> <p>Footpaths Officer: John Baker</p> <p>Webmaster: Malcolm Shergold</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Ronnie Walker</p> <p>Publicity: vacant and no nominations</p> <p>General members: John Bevan</p> <p>Maurice and Pam Cullis stated they wished to stand down at the AGM and Peter thanked them on behalf of the committee for all they had done for the Group over a number of years and for the use of their home for many of our past meetings.</p>	<p>supply of hard copies for 10th.</p>
<p>13. Navigation Course: Mike Ingleby had offered to put on a navigation course early in 2018. He proposed to have this over a weekend with a theory session on the Saturday followed by a practical session on the Sunday. The committee expressed their appreciation of his offer and agreed to set aside a small budget for room hire and teas/coffees/biscuits etc to support this initiative. Jackie to liaise with Mike and a newsletter item would canvass interest.</p>	<p>Jackie to liaise with Mike Ingleby.</p>
<p>14. Date of Next Meeting: to be arranged with new committee post AGM</p>	