

FOREST OF DEAN RAMBLERS

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

Monday 21st January 2019 at Yorkley Community Centre

PRESENT: Chair (PR), Secretary (JH), Walks Co-ordinator (IW), Webmaster (MS), Area Rep (MI) and two general committee members (JBe and SM).

APOLOGIES: Treasurer (RW), Membership Secretary (LS) and Footpath Officer (JBa).

| AGENDA ITEM: | ACTION: |
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| <p>1. Minutes of meeting on 21st September 2018: the minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p> | <p>Secretary to send to Webmaster for publication on the website.</p> |
| <p>2. Matters Arising:</p> <p>All actions from the last meeting were confirmed as completed. There were no matters arising not covered under later agenda items.</p> | |
| <p>3. Chair's report:</p> <p>Before commencing his report, the Chair welcomed MI to the meeting as a new member of the committee. PR also asked the committee to formally ratify MI as our Group's representative at Gloucestershire Area level. This was agreed.</p> <p>The Chair reported on the success of the Group's Christmas lunch held on 30th November 2018 at Whitemead Park, Parkend. 52 members attended with most taking part in the 6 mile pre meal walk. The committee thanked PR and JR for their hard work organising this event and for leading the walk.</p> <p>PR went on to thank all those who had contributed to hosting the Area AGM on 19th January 2019. Nine FoD members had attended and the post meeting walk had been led by MI.</p> <p>PR concluded by expressing his continued thanks to committee members and walks leaders for their contributions to the successful running of our Group.</p> | |
| <p>4. Secretary's report.</p> <p>The Secretary reported that St Mary's Bridge, Lydney had now been repaired and re-installed with its official opening scheduled for 9th March. In recognition of our donation, our Group would receive an invitation to the opening. It was agreed that two tickets would be sufficient and JH agreed to contact the project manager to confirm this. A walk incorporating this bridge had already been put on our next programme. In response to a question, JH stated that some publicity would come as a result of our donation to this project.</p> <p>JH confirmed receipt of 500 Beechenhurst Trail leaflets. They were good quality so JH was now confident to place a further order for the reprint of the Highmeadow Trail leaflet as agreed at the September meeting.</p> <p>JH proposed to transfer all committee meeting and AGM papers up to the end of 2018 to the records already held at Gloucestershire Records Offices. This would result in a 40 year archive preserved in a single, readily accessible place. From 2019 she proposed to retain only electronic copies. The committee approved this proposal. It was recommended that use of a drop box facility be explored.</p> <p>JH reminded the committee that it had been two years since the last First Aid course and that refresher courses should be every three years. She proposed to arrange a further course in the autumn and requested a budget of £700 be allocated from "Book Fund Monies". This was agreed.</p> | <p>Secretary to confirm two tickets for bridge opening.</p> <p>Secretary to order reprint of Highmeadow Trail leaflets.</p> <p>Webmaster to liaise with Secretary regarding use of "drop box" filing option.</p> <p>Secretary to organise First Aid course in Autumn. Treasurer to allocate agreed</p> |

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| <p>There followed a discussion about making best use of the “Book Fund Monies”. The issue of First Aid kits to walk leaders was again discussed however the logistics of keeping these up to date remained a constraint. However having group shelters for walks leaders was potentially an appropriate investment. In the first instance it was agreed for the Secretary to research costs. A newsletter insert would call for ideas from the Group’s members.</p> | <p>budget. Secretary to get costs of group shelters</p> |
| <p>5. Treasurer’ report:</p> <p>In his absence, the Treasurer had provided a written report. This showed that the Unity Trust account stood at £323.37 whilst the Coventry Building Society account stood at £3087.87. In addition £6,580 was held as payments received to date for the Grange-over-Sands Holiday and as such is not part of the Group’s operating accounts.</p> | |
| <p>6. Walk Coordinator’s report:</p> <p>The Walks Coordinator reported a total of only 11 walks on the new programme which runs from March to June. The Membership Secretary would be asked to send an email to members appealing for more walks to be added. This had been a successful tactic for the current programme.</p> | <p>Membership Secretary to send email to members appealing for more walks.</p> |
| <p>7. Membership Secretary’s report:</p> <p>In her absence the Membership Secretary had provided a written report. As at 1st January 2019 membership stood at 204. In previous reports LS had been able to provide more detailed information about changes in membership however the new “insight” hub now used by CO had changed definitions making trend reporting difficult. Future reports would be total numbers of members only.</p> | |
| <p>8. Webmaster’s report:</p> <p>The Webmaster reported no operating problems and that all was working well.</p> | |
| <p>9. Footpath Officer’s report:</p> <p>In his absence the Footpaths Officer had provided his usual full report on footpath activity since the last meeting. Over the reporting period GCC had dealt with 58 footpath issues but still retained an average of 200 outstanding jobs month on month. Between October and December JBa had reviewed 32 planning applications from which 6 objections had been lodged. There had been 3 modification orders approved.</p> <p>The Footpath Officer’s report concluded by reporting that fencing by Woodcroft Quarry, Sedbury which impinged on part of the Offa’s Dyke Path and proposed extension to Clearwell Quarry affecting a footpath were still on going issues.</p> | |

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| <p>10. Grange-over-Sands Holiday 2019: 36 members had signed up for this holiday which secured its viability however there was one double room still available available and it was decided to advertise this in the next newsletter. Final payments were due by 15th February 2019.</p> <p>SM presented information about her proposed week's holiday in June 2019 to the Lake District based in Keswick. This was approved in principle and an advance notice would be placed in the newsletter with full details issued later on in the summer.</p> | <p>Secretary to draft newsletter insert</p> |
| <p>11. Area Report: MI informed the committee he had welcomed the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution both at FoD and Area levels having also been appointed Vice-Chair at the Area AGM on 19th January. He wanted to get to know Area members better and understand the work they undertook. His main aim would be to improve communication between Area and local groups. His first meeting would be on 30th January.</p> <p>MI went on to report on the business of Area AGM highlighting attendance of Peter Carr, Ramblers Trustee who spoke about CO achievements over 2018, involvement in the A417 road improvement scheme consultation and a GDPR motion put forward for consideration at national level.</p> | |
| <p>12. Newsletter items: these were agreed and would be sent to the Newsletter Editor.</p> | |
| <p>13. AOB: The Chair reported on a recent incident involving a member's dog. Although it had been considered minor it could easily have been of greater significance. After a full discussion it was agreed that whilst our members who take dogs on our Group walks are responsible owners, things can and do happen so it would be helpful to issue a reminder of the Ramblers "Code for Walking With Dogs".</p> | <p>Secretary to draft newsletter insert</p> |
| <p>14. Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd June 2019 at Yorkley Community Centre</p> | <p>Secretary to book YCC</p> |