

FOREST OF DEAN RAMBLERS

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON

Tuesday 23rd May 2017 at Yorkley Community Centre

PRESENT: Peter Robbins (Chair), Jackie Huck (Secretary), Ian Walding (Walks Co-ordinator), Malcolm Shergold (Webmaster), John Baker (Footpath Officer), Maurice Cullis, Pam Cullis, John Bevan and Ronnie Walker (Newsletter Editor). Brian Payne (Area Chair) was in attendance.

APOLOGIES: David Pollard (Treasurer)

AGENDA ITEM:	ACTION:
<p>1. Minutes of meeting on 31st January 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 welcomed Brian Payne to the meeting and invited him to speak about the role of Area and how, as its new Chair, Brian saw things working into the future. Brian explained that Area is an amalgamation of all groups across Gloucestershire and forms the link with Ramblers at a national level. He outlined the work of Area and expressed his regret that there continued to be no representation from FoD group. He went on to refer to the fact that the FoD group had declined to take its turn hosting Area's 2016 AGM and wished to understand what had led to that decision. He also asked if the group would host Area's 2017 AGM. This matter was discussed at length with committee members reiterating they had not felt able to resource hosting the Area 2016 AGM and that this would remain the position for 2017. In addition the committee strongly held the view they had volunteered for supporting the FoD group and their commitment did not extend beyond that. Brian expressed his disappointment at this decision and asked the Secretary to formally confirm this decision which would be reported back to the next Area meeting. Peter expressed the committee's concerns about Area's decision to reduce the percentage of subs coming to some Gloucestershire groups for second half year running costs. It was accepted that FoD group's funding position was good however this was due to sales of our walking book, not through national funding. The requirements of the Charities Commission with regard to monetary reserves were understood; nevertheless this issue had generated a feeling of unfairness. It was agreed that use of reserve funds would be the main focus of discussions at the next meeting.</p> <p>Peter reported on a successful Emergency First Aid course at which 16 leaders had been trained. He hoped that this training, together with the Leadership Development Course, would give people the confidence to lead walks in the future to the benefit of all members.</p> <p>He went on to report that The Beeches, Gloucestershire College were not taking bookings for 2017 Christmas lunches until September. He would progress this matter at that time.</p>	<p>Jackie to email Brian Payne with committee decision regarding hosting Area's 2017 AGM</p> <p>Use of reserves to be a main agenda item at next meeting.</p> <p>Peter to arrange Christmas lunch and walk for 2017</p>

<p>4. Secretary's report.</p> <p>Jackie shared the role descriptions for Chair, Secretary and Membership Secretary which were welcomed by members. John Baker confirmed he was now in a position to compile one for Footpaths Secretary. Other role descriptions were needed for Walks Co-ordinator and Treasurer. Jackie would raise other matters later in the agenda.</p>	<p>Outstanding role descriptions to be completed.</p>
<p>5. Treasurer' report:</p> <p>David had been unable to attend the meeting however he had emailed through the current balances of the two accounts held. The Unity Trust account stands at £465.92 whilst the Coventry Building Society account stands at £3058.43. PayPal (online sales) stands at £123.48.</p> <p>Regarding known financial commitments, David's report identified an expected bill of £360 for renewal of our website hosting which would reduce the running account significantly but not to the point where we would have a problem in meeting the rest of the year's expected expenditure.</p> <p>Book sales stood at 71.</p>	
<p>6. Walk Coordinator's report:</p> <p>Ian reported a total of 27 walks on the new programme which runs from July to October. There were some gaps however there was still time for these to be filled before the programme closes and he expected a good spread across weekdays and over weekends offering a great range of walks overall.</p> <p>Ian thanked Malcolm for his support in putting his first walks programme into a printable format.</p>	
<p>7. Membership Secretary's report:</p> <p>Jackie reported a current membership total of 204 as at the end of April having reduced from 211 as at 31st December 2016. Unfortunately there had been a number of resignations from long standing members who were no longer able to walk with our group.</p> <p>Jackie was pleased to report that Lynn Stockley had offered to take on the role of Membership Secretary. Jackie would liaise with Lynn and Malcolm to effect this change.</p>	<p>Jackie to arrange transfer of membership duties to Lynn.</p>
<p>8. Webmaster's report:</p> <p>Malcolm formally reported on the renewal fee of £360 for the webpage hosting and confirmed this expenditure had been approved by members via email. 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 January to March 2017. There had been 3 footpath issues reported and all 3 were still on-going. Over this period AMEY had dealt with 61 (Jan), 40 (Feb) and 33 (March) footpath issues. John reported that he had reviewed 29 planning applications over the period, none of which had a direct impact on relevant local footpaths.</p> <p>There had been 3 footpath diversion issues: Lydbrook Stowfield (realignment of footpath to definitive map), Joyford (non compliance with modification order rectified) and Breckness Court (path diversion).</p>	

<p>John's report also provided an update on the position regarding the Lower Lydbrook iron bridge. The structural report had now been received by relevant authorities and feedback on possible solutions was awaited. Lydbrook Parish Council continued to actively lobby for the bridge to be repaired and was holding a public meeting on this issue on Saturday 27th May.</p> <p>John confirmed he held full information on all the above which would be made available to any member of the FoD group on request.</p> <p>Maurice reported that on the maintenance position for the 3 leafleted walks trail. New waymark discs for the Highmeadow trail was needed as well as a supply of posts. Ian Walding had obtained a price for the discs (20 at £60) and this expenditure was agreed but with the addition of the FoD Ramblers website to the discs. Maurice would liaise with Derek Shepherd about sourcing the posts. With these materials, Maurice would be in a position to get a working party together for remedial works.</p> <p>In response to a question from John Sheraton, Jackie had researched the insurance position for working parties. Working party events must be posted on our web based walks programme however there was no time scale for doing so provided it was done prior to the date. It would also be necessary to undertake a proportionate risk assessment and for the names of those forming the working party to be sent to CO. It was also confirmed that insurance was public liability not personal and not applicable to anyone aged 80 years plus.</p>	<p>lan to order discs and Maurice to source posts and arrange working party.</p> <p>Jackie to send working party names to CO for insurance purposes.</p>
<p>10. Proposed walking holiday, Skipton May 2018: Peter confirmed that all agreed action from the January meeting had been satisfactorily completed and 27 members had already booked and paid a deposit.</p> <p>Sue Marshall was officially co-opted to the committee as main organiser of this trip.</p>	
<p>11. 40th Anniversary of FoD Group:</p> <p>Jackie reported she had been in contact with Robin and Sue Warren about an appropriate celebration of this milestone. Sue had led the group's first walk and would be willing to do so again in August 2018. The committee was delighted that she would be willing to do this and agreed that this walk should be followed by a lunch and exhibition. As many as possible original and previous members to be invited. Jackie agreed to take things forward with Sue and Robin and start the process to gather names and contact details of previous members.</p>	<p>Jackie to contact Robin and Sue to confirm plans.</p>
<p>12. AOB: Pam reported she had received notification from the Catholic Church, Coleford of a new process for booking their hall. This was noted.</p> <p>The group still needed to identify a Treasurer to take over from David after the AGM in November. It was agreed to put a notice to this effect in the Newsletter and also to ask around when out on walks.</p> <p>The 2016/17 AGM would take place on Friday 10th November 2017. Jackie to book Yorkley Community Centre but if not available to use the Catholic Hall.</p>	
<p>13. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th October 2017 at 7.30pm. Jackie to book Yorkley Community Centre.</p>	<p>Jackie to book Yorkley Community Centre for next meeting and AGM</p>