

FOREST OF DEAN RAMBLERS

COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 28th JANUARY 2016

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

APOLOGIES: David Pollard (Treasurer)

Mike thanked Maurice and Pam for hosting the meeting and welcomed Ronnie Walker as a co-opted member of the committee in his new role as Newsletter Editor.

AGENDA ITEM:	ACTION:
<p>1. Minutes of meeting on 8th October 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>Upper Forge Bridge Inauguration photobook: Babs confirmed she had contacted Barbara Fisher to start the process of putting together a record of this project.</p> <p>Mike will pass the certificates relating to the Upper Forge Bridge to the Secretary to be held on file.</p> <p>MonDean Walking Festival: Mike confirmed that he will coordinate our input into the MonDean Walking Festival due to take place from 1st October to 9th October 2016. In total there will be 9 walks (one each day) offered by leaders from our Group. In future Mike will not be available to undertake a coordination role but will be happy to lead walks.</p> <p>Other matters arising will be covered under later agenda items.</p>	<p>Babs Jones to continue to work on the photobook</p> <p>Mike Ingleby to pass certificates to Jackie Huck</p>
<p>3. Chair's report:</p> <p>Mike started his report by explaining the changes to his circumstances over the past six months which included being accepted as an HF holiday leader and his personal aspirations to complete mountain leadership qualifications. Although he had hoped to manage both existing and new commitments, it had become clear that choices needed to be made and had concluded HF and other walking interests should be his priority. Mike went on to say he would not continue as Chair post the 2016 AGM and he hoped a new Chair could be found before then. In the meantime he could only undertake minimal duties to maintain the role.</p> <p>The committee thanked Mike for providing early notice of his intentions and wished him well in his new ventures.</p> <p>Newsletter Editor: Mike asked for the committee's endorsement to co-opt Ronnie Walker to the committee in his new role as Newsletter Editor. The committee unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Mike formally expressed his thanks to John Sheraton for being the Newsletter Editor for some 13 years. He remarked this had been a significant commitment benefiting all members over a long period. All members of the committee added their appreciation and thanks.</p> <p>Christmas Lunch: Mike had approached The Orepool Inn as suggested as a suitable venue at the last meeting. He considered there was little flexibility in terms of menus and courses and, given the feedback from last year's event, he realised it wouldn't work for our members.</p>	<p>Ronnie Walker to express the committee's thanks to John Sheraton in the next newsletter.</p>

<p>Holiday: For reasons described above, Mike had not been in a position to organise a group holiday for 2016. Offers from other members to take on organising holidays would be very welcome.</p>	
<p>4. Secretary's report.</p> <p>Jackie distributed a contacts list for committee members to complete. The updated version will be distributed with the draft minutes of this meeting.</p> <p>Jackie presented draft guidance to leaders in the event of a change or cancellation to a walk. The guidance was endorsed and will be posted on the website.</p>	<p>Jackie Huck to send guidance to Malcolm Shergold for posting on the website.</p>
<p>5. Walk Coordinator's report:</p> <p>The next programme will close by mid February. It currently has 34 walks with a reasonable spread across weekdays and weekends however there are no walks programmed for 9th and 10th April, 28th and 29th May or 18th, 19th, 25th and 26th June. Maurice expected some of these dates to be filled before the final cut off date although there may be a few gaps. Nevertheless it was expected a good and varied programme will be on offer.</p>	
<p>6. 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 £494.94 whilst the Coventry Building Society account stands at £1706.46. In addition the PayPal account totals £103.44.</p>	
<p>7. Membership Secretary's report:</p> <p>Babs reported a membership total of 226 as at 31st December 2015. There had been 2 new members in this period, one of whom had experienced problems regarding receiving a membership card. Babs had chased this up with CO and had given assurance that the individual could still walk with a group whilst waiting for their card.</p>	
<p>8. Webmaster's report:</p> <p>Malcolm had nothing to report, confirming all was working well.</p>	
<p>9. Book and Leaflet Sales and Distribution:</p> <p>The process to support distribution and sales of Exploring Historic Dean (EHD) and walk leaflets was not yet finalised. John Sheraton had contacted the Mike offering to be the link for Brockweir Community Shop, Dean Heritage Centre and The Norchard. This offer was welcomed.</p> <p>The price list was confirmed as;</p> <p>EHD Book: wholesale at £6.50/retail at £9.95/members at £8</p> <p>Walk Leaflets: wholesale at 25p/retail at £1</p> <p>Malcolm reported he had sold two copies of EHD via the web site, both of which had been requested for urgent delivery. He was pleased to have been able to meet the requested time scales.</p>	

<p>10. Promotion and Community Involvement:</p> <p>Mike had reported on the MonDean Walking Festival in his Chair's report above.</p>	
<p>11. 2016 North Wales Way:</p> <p>Ronnie presented his proposals for this walk planned for April 2016. The route will cover 34 miles from Bangor to Llandudno via Abergwyngregyn, Llanfair, Conwy and Great Orme. Ronnie was thanked for putting this walk together which would now be publicised in the next newsletter.</p>	<p>Ronnie Walker to insert his walk plans into the next newsletter.</p>
<p>12. Committee membership, roles and managing vacancies:</p> <p>The committee discussed how to manage the current vacant posts of Footpaths and Publicity Officers. Regarding Publicity, Jackie offered to monitor emails received via the "publicity" email address and hold the stocks of walks leaflets from Barbara Fisher.</p> <p>Regarding Footpath Officer, Mike described the role as having three main components. Firstly, monitoring and responding to planning requests which involve footpaths by identifying applications impinging on a footpath, raising an objection and following through to a negotiated agreement. The challenge is meeting deadlines for objecting and identifying what would be a variable number of relevant applications per month. The second aspect is being a contact point for reporting footpath obstructions and passing these onto the Highways Authority. Thirdly, coordinating relevant maintenance work on our three leafleted trails. Volunteers had expressed a willingness to take on certain aspects of footpath work however no one had offered to take on the crucial co-ordinating role therefore this issue remains at an impasse.</p> <p>It was noted that Richard Holmes (Area Footpaths Officer) will undertake some limited footpath preservation work for our group but this is only a short term option. Mike will send Richard the contact details of those who expressed an interested in footpath work at the AGM.</p> <p>It was agreed to place an article in the next newsletter explaining the current vacancies and the need for a new Chair which seeks volunteers for these important roles.</p>	<p>Malcolm Shergold to redirect publicity emails to secretary.</p> <p>Jackie Huck to get walk leaflets from Barbara Fisher</p> <p>Mike Ingleby to send contact details to Richard Holmes</p> <p>Ronnie Walker to insert article into next newsletter.</p>
<p>13. AOB: none</p>	
<p>14. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10th May 2016 at 7.30pm</p>	