

MINUTES OF
BRISTOL RAMBLERS GROUP COMMITTEE MEETING
29th MARCH 2023, BRADBURY HALL, HENLEAZE

0 ATTENDEES

Heather Toyne (Chair), Peter Budden, Tony Parsons, Geoff Daniels, Keith Budd, Ceiswyn Blake, Bob Gibson, Carew Reynell, Sarah Marshall.

1 APOLOGIES AND WELCOME

HT welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular guests Sarah Marshall¹ and Bob Gibson. Apologies had been received from Sue Fox.

2 APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes (Draft 2)² of the last meeting, held on 25th January 2023, were accepted as an accurate record of that meeting.

3. ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETING

All actions from the last meeting had been completed.

4 NATIONAL WALK MANAGER WEBSITE CHANGES

TP noted that there had been recent emails on the new Walk Manager facility being introduced by national Ramblers. The new approach is planned to be introduced on 17th May. TP will be attending the forthcoming Zoom meeting on the Walk Manager and will then report back to the Committee.

5 WEBSITE SUPPORT

SM reported hoped to become involved as much as possible in supporting the website. There followed discussion on where SM can assist TP's work on the Group website noting that regular involvement was needed to fully appreciate the details and functionality of the website and that perhaps a review of its capabilities and where it could usefully be simplified might be performed. This was supported. TP noted that abbreviated pages of some website items are included on the national website.

In conclusion, it was considered that a suitable role for SM would be Webpage Editor, a position currently held by CR. This would include advice to the Webmaster (TP) on where edits or changes should be made. TP would continue in his role as On-Line Walks Editor.

6 TRACK LOG LIBRARY

TP noted that there is an area of the Group website from where it is possible to download gpx guides for some previous walks. There are about 12 walks in the library at present, mostly B walks. There is a map function which can show the walks available by geographical area. CR remarked that the library has not been extensively used and that there is no guarantee that the included walks are still all feasible. There was some discussion regarding whether people's names should be identifiable from the file details, which was considered undesirable, and it was agreed that it would require a lot of effort to keep the library up-to-date. The issue of access to the files was also discussed and it was agreed to 'hide'

¹ Subsequent to the meeting, SM has agreed to join the Committee.

² Note that the minutes should be dated 1st February not 1st January 2023.

them from general view for now, and revisit in 5 months, to see if there was any capacity to provide the necessary level of upkeep and maintenance. Two associated Actions were agreed.

ACTION HT/BG to review and discuss the status of the track log library in 5 months

ACTION CR will link with Marlies, whose tracklogs are contained in the library, so she is aware that they have temporarily been hidden

7 MEET-UP UPDATE

BG reported that a new Meet-Up group for A walkers had been launched about 3 weeks prior to this meeting, with about 65 people currently signed-up for the group. Two walks have taken place so far which were posted on Meet Up. Each of these had included 1 new person who had joined via the new arrangements. BG concluded that, on the basis of the short time involved, there was a possible positive effect but he will continue to monitor the position and review the situation in 5 months, or sooner if necessary. The possibility of extending Meet-Up to also cover B walks will be considered later when further experience with the pilot scheme for A walks has been gathered.

8 WALK FEST UPDATE

HT summarised the position regarding Walk Fest 2023. The programme and flyers are being printed by 7th April although further walks can still be added to the Walk Fest website. There are currently 84 providers and 151 events being held. Geoff Rowlands has offered to lead the walk from Sparks (the old Marks and Spencer site) on 13th May. Walk participants are being asked to blog on walks they have joined and include any relevant photographs. There is an article on Walk Fest for eBoot pending. Bristol Ramblers is currently offering 26 walks in total.

The Bristol City Council PROW team is leading a walk at 13.30 on 26th May from Shirehampton Station. Roger Britton (RB) will be taking part as the Bristol Ramblers representative.

HT thanked those involved, KB and CR in particular, for their hard work towards Walk Fest 2023.

9 MEMBERSHIP FEE REDUCTION IN MAY

HT reported that the number of Bristol Group members has declined, to 670 compared with 692 a year ago, the lowest for some time (there had been 722 members in October 2021). TP noted that the number of members of national Ramblers has also recently fallen.

It was noted that there is currently a 10% reduction in the first year's membership fee for those joining the Ramblers in May and that this should be publicised as part of the Walk Fest. The appropriate discount code could also be shared via eBoot to encourage friends and family of members to join, perhaps as a gift.

ACTION **CB** to include the discount code in eBoot to encourage members to consider the gift of membership for friends and family.

10 NATIONAL AND LOCAL CAMPAIGNS

HT reported on updates received from RB. There is a cut-off date of 1st January 2031 for submission of Definitive Map Modification Orders (DMMOs) but that Bristol City Council was taking up to 25 years to process applications! A Don't Lose Your Way (DLYW) application is proposed for Princes Lane but about 20 yards has been washed away and may no longer be feasible. RB has had volunteers to aid his work but is currently unable to make use of them.

It was noted that there had been a press release from the Downs Committee raising the issue of access to the area of the Downs previously used for overflow parking for the now-closed Bristol Zoo. The Downs Committee has objected to the Council's intention to not mow this area. The Group did not

support the Downs Committee's objection and CR/HT had asked that Bristol Ramblers be removed from the press release.

11 TREASURER'S REPORT

GD reported that there was currently a total of £3602 in Group funds, comprising £469 and £3133 in the 'Admin' and 'Restricted' categories, respectively. It was noted that the 'Admin' funds are augmented quarterly by the regular contribution from Ramblers HQ. GD considered that there were no issues of concern with the level of Group funds.

12 WALK NUMBERS AND ISSUES

HT summarised information provided by SF on the recent numbers attending Wednesday and Saturday walks since the last Committee meeting. On Wednesdays, there had been 8 walks in total, with an average attendance of 15, a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 28 (the latter being a local walk from Blaise). There was one Wednesday with no walk. For Saturdays, there had been 9 walks in total, with an average participation of 11, a minimum of 7 and a maximum of 17.

BG had previously produced a chart showing numbers on Sunday A walks and outlined his conclusions. So far this year, attendees on A walks have ranged between 8 and 21 with an average of 12. BG noted that the number of A walkers had returned to approximately the numbers pre-pandemic and that the rolling average had increased, recognising the usual seasonal variations. There was a satisfying trend of increasing numbers.

The corresponding B walk numbers are 9-20, with an average of 16 compared with 14.5 last time.

HT indicated that the average total number of participants across all walks was 54 per week.

There had been no recent issues with car sharing.

13 UPDATE FROM LAST AREA COUNCIL MEETING AND AREA COUNCIL DATES

HT had attended the last Area Council meeting on 23rd March. There was nothing of note to report. However, in future, meetings will be held only 3 times per year, in addition to the annual AGM.

14 DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The date of the next meeting will be 17th May 2023 at Bradbury Hall. The 2023 AGM will take place on 19th October at the Redland Green Bowls Club. The venue for the AGM has been booked.

15 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business raised. The Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their involvement.

Peter Budden

3rd May April 2023 (Draft 3, for endorsement by Committee)

LIST OF ACTIONS

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| ACTION | HT/BG to review and discuss the status of the track log library in 5 months |
| ACTION | CR will link with Marlies, whose tracklogs are contained in the library, so she is aware that they have temporarily been hidden. |
| ACTION | CB to include the discount code in eBoot to encourage members to consider the gift of membership for friends and family. |